

U.S. may be bracing for Iranian raids

NEW YORK (R) — American installations throughout the world have been alerted to the increased chance of Iranian attacks in retaliation for U.S. escorts of Kuwaiti shipping, the New York Times said Sunday. The newspaper quoted a senior government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, as expressing concern about possible Iranian-sponsored attacks in the Gulf, Europe and elsewhere. Reagan administration officials have stressed the United States was prepared to retaliate against Iran if it were identified as the source of attacks. The New York Times said the official who spoke of the alert did not discuss possible U.S. responses to an attack. But it quoted Pentagon sources as saying American military planners have prepared a list of targets in Iran that could be attacked if the president decided to retaliate. The newspaper also said it could not determine if the target list, part of contingency plans routinely drawn up by the joint chiefs of staff, had been reviewed by the White House or the State Department. The newspapers said the United States might target military and economic facilities in Iran, including Iran's major oil terminal at Kharg Island and its military base on Farsi Island.

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Syrians said to have got MiG-29s

TEL AVIV (AP) — Syria has received a first delivery of advanced Soviet-built MiG-29 fighter planes which are comparable to the U.S.-made F-15 planes used by Israel, Israeli Radio reported Sunday. Israel's military command refused to comment on the report. The MiG-29 is capable of carrying up to four tonnes of explosives for bombing missions, Israeli Radio said, adding that the acquisition was considered part of a Syrian policy to achieve military parity with Israel. The report did not say how many planes the Syrians received.

Flu reported in Mecca and Medina

ABU DHABI (R) — The government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been asked to send medicines to Saudi Arabia because influenza is spreading among Haj pilgrims, a UAE newspaper reported Sunday. Al Bayan newspaper in a report from Jeddah said the head of the UAE pilgrims' delegation had asked the government to send medicines as stocks had been used up in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. It said a meeting would be held in Mecca on Monday between Saudi Arabian officials and representatives of pilgrims' delegations to discuss health problems.

Sri Lankan peace talks falter

NEW DELHI (R) — A bid by India to broker peace in Sri Lanka ran into difficulties on Sunday when Indian negotiators failed to persuade the main Sri Lankan rebel group to accept an accord worked out by Colombo and New Delhi. After two days of talks, news agencies quoted Velupillai Prabhakaran, 33-year-old leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, as saying the group could not accept the proposals in their present form. Mr. Prabhakaran said the Tigers, one of five Tamil separatist groups meeting Indian officials in New Delhi, had expressed "reservations and misgivings on several counts." The talks continue Monday but Mr. Prabhakaran indicated that prospects were dim of an accord being signed in Colombo on Wednesday as Sri Lanka proposes (See earlier story on page 8).

Lahore police bust forced labour camp

ISLAMABAD (R) — Police smashed a forced labour camp in Pakistan's second city Lahore on Saturday after being led to it by a young escapee, the official APP news agency reported. It said 12 kidnapped boys aged between nine and 17 were found in the camp, which was run by two men who were arrested. The boys were subjected to forced labour under strict watch during the day and chained up at night.

Soviets to improve nuclear submarines

MOSCOW (R) — Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, the commander-in-chief of the Soviet navy, said Sunday Moscow intended to improve the quality of its nuclear submarines rather than increase their number. In an interview with the government newspaper Izvestia to mark Soviet Navy Day, Adm. Chernavin said the Soviet Union had fewer aircraft carriers and battleships than the United States but more submarines.

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Calm prevails in Khartoum after state of emergency is declared

KHARTOUM (AP) — All was calm in Khartoum on Sunday, one day after the government declared a one-year state of emergency to combat deteriorating economic and security problems.

A cabinet minister said the state of emergency was imposed to deal with a recent state of strikes, and a retired army officer ruled out that it was to cover any coup attempt. Education Minister Bakri Ahmad Adel was quoted by Sudanese newspapers as saying the emergency laws were declared to enable the government to uncover who were behind the strikes, the latest by employees of the national Sudanese radio and television who silenced transmission for nearly three days.

The declaration came shortly after all schools were ordered indefinitely closed after several days of student riots, spurred by unavailability of text books and shortages of essential commodities. Life in Khartoum resumed normally, with most people reacting with indifference to the declaration. Members of various trade unions, who spoke on condition of anonymity for their safety, rejected the emergency laws.

Iraq and Iran report heavy air action and fighting on front

GCC welcomes U.N. resolution on Gulf war

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Baghdad reported extensive air strikes on Sunday on Iranian positions as Tehran said Iraqi troops suffered 1,100 casualties in heavy fighting on the central war front. A high command communiqué in Baghdad said Iraqi planes and helicopter gunships carried out 230 missions during the day, up from 216 on Saturday, but made no mention of battles on the central front.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said 1,100 Iraqis were killed or wounded and several captured during pitched battles Sunday and Saturday in the Sumar and Meimak border areas of the central front.

Fighting erupted near Sumar, 130 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, just over two weeks ago, with both sides seeking to hold strategic heights overlooking the Tigris River valley to the west. The Iraqi communiqué said Sunday's air strikes destroyed 50 vehicles and dozens of infantry positions and artillery sites.

The Iranian news agency said Tehran's forces had repulsed Iraqi attempts to seize four heights in the Meimak area. It said Iranian helicopter gunships had been in action against Iraqi positions in the area.

The continued fighting in the almost seven-year-old war comes amid international moves to bring about an immediate ceasefire.

Peres: 'No preconditions' for Israeli-Soviet ties

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday Israel had set no preconditions for the resumption of diplomatic ties with the Soviet Union and the Jewish state expected the same attitude from Moscow.

"Israel sets no preconditions to the reestablishment of normal diplomatic relations and expects no such preconditions from the Soviet side," Mr. Peres said in a statement.

Moscow severed diplomatic relations with Israel during the 1967 Middle East war.

A Soviet consular delegation, the first official mission to visit Israel for 20 years, is in Israel with the declared aim of surveying property belonging to the Russian Orthodox Church.

Many Israelis, however, see the visit as a sign of a gradual thaw in relations between the two countries. Poland has opened a diplomatic interest office in Tel Aviv and Hungary has recently sought expanded commercial ties with the Jewish state.

Soviet Jewry activists have protested against the visit and have demanded Moscow allow unlimited Jewish emigration.

Mr. Peres has insisted the Soviet Union restore diplomatic ties and loosen restrictions on the emigration of Soviet Jews as conditions for Soviet participation in a proposed international conference.

On Friday, Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani castigated Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for selling 300,000 barrels of oil a day on Iraq's behalf. Mr. Rafsanjani threatened that if Iraq resumed attacking Iranian oil installations, "we will hit back at economic centres belonging to Iraq's allies."

The GCC was founded in 1981, largely in response to threats to the Arab World from the Gulf war, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the 1978 siege of Mecca by Muslim fundamentalists.

The Saturday talks were attended by Prince Saud Al Faisal of Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait, Sheikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa of Bahrain, Rashed Al Abdullah of the UAE, Yusef Al Alawi of Oman, and Qatari Oil Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Khalifa Al Thani, standing in for the foreign minister.

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France alerts navy for possible Gulf mission

PARIS (Agencies) — France on Sunday ordered its Mediterranean fleet to be ready to leave port within 24 hours because of increased tension in the Gulf, the Defence Ministry said.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said the aircraft carrier Clemenceau, two frigates and a supply ship would be ready to leave the southern port of Toulon from Monday.

But he said the stand-by did not necessarily mean the fleet would sail. The spokesman said France had ordered the 24-hour alert as the latest step in a worsening diplomatic row with Iran.

The alert was "a precaution in view of escalating international tension, particularly in the Middle East and in the Gulf."

In addition to the Clemenceau, three support vessels that have been put in a state of readiness, are the missile-launching frigates Suffren and Duquesne, and the support vessel Meuse, said the spokesman.

France already has at least three ships in the Gulf of Oman or in the Gulf, including the supply vessel Marne, the command ship Victor Schoelcher and the Proteus.

The George Leygues left Toulon Wednesday and was scheduled to arrive in Djibouti Friday before proceeding to the Gulf, the defence spokesman said.

France, which severed diplomatic relations with Iran on July 17, has in recent days ordered its navy to take a higher profile in the Gulf as a confrontation with Tehran over evacuating embassy staff looked set to continue.

Some 45 Iranians and 15 French nationals have been held as virtual hostages in each others' capitals since the two countries cut links over an Iranian embassy interpreter wanted for questioning about a 1986 bombing campaign in Paris.

Iran has refused to allow the interpreter, Vahid Gerdji, to testify, linking his fate to that of a French diplomat it accuses of spying and black-marketeering.

With both sides apparently preparing for a long war of nerves, France has taken several steps to protect its ships in the Gulf.

Following a Defence Ministry announcement on Thursday that France would send an anti-submarine frigate to the Gulf, Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond said Saturday France was prepared to take firm action against Iranian attacks in the Gulf.

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Iranian speedboats at dawn, hours before the 7 a.m. blast, but U.S. officials said it was extremely difficult to establish how and when the mining took place.

U.S. naval experts helped Kuwait clear another key channel leading to Mina Al Ahmadi of mines believed to have been laid by Iran in May. Two Saudi minesweepers also took part.

A Kuwaiti newspaper accused Tehran on Sunday of laying the mine that struck the Bridgeton, saying it showed Iran's "insistence on escalating and continuing its challenge to the will of the international community."

Iran has yet to formally respond to last week's United Nations Security Council call for a Gulf ceasefire, accepted by Iraq with the proviso Tehran does likewise.

According to marine salvage experts in Bahrain, the mine that ripped a hole in the Bridgeton may have been laid only two hours ahead of the blast.

The experts, who spoke to AP on condition of anonymity, also said two rusty mines were sighted by passing ships in waters south of where the Bridgeton was holed earlier. The Lloyds statement on Sunday accounted for one of the two mines and there was no way immediately to reconcile the differing reports on the number of mines in the area.

Adm. Bensen told reporters on Sunday that even though military planners spent months preparing for the passage of the Bridgeton and the smaller gas carrier Gas Prince, threats from Silkstorm missiles, Iranian aircraft and small patrol boat attacks overshadowed the threat of mines and none of his staff was assigned to grapple with it.

It is not just oil tankers that Adm. Bensen is worried about now.

He explained: "It may seem incongruous, but the fact is a large ship, a non-warship such as the Bridgeton, is far less vulnerable to a mine than a warship."

Captain David Yonkers, commander of the three-ship flotilla, agreed with that assessment.

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Damage to Bridgeton said worse than estimated

By John Rice

KUWAIT (AP) — Water on Sunday flooded four of the 31 compartments in a Kuwaiti supertanker which hit a mine two days ago as it sailed in the Gulf's perilous waters under the U.S. flag with American warship escort.

Divers who inspected the 401,382-ton tanker reported that the damage it sustained in the mine blast Friday was more serious than originally estimated. They were trying to determine if the vessel, one of the world's largest tankers, could be repaired locally or at least partly filled with crude oil.

The Bridgeton was anchored Sunday near Kuwait's Sea Island supertanker loading platform, some 16 kilometres from the Mina Al Ahmadi port where its convoy companion, the 46,730-ton Gas Prince, was docked to take on liquefied petroleum gas.

The two Kuwaiti vessels, flying the American flag, docked off Kuwait Saturday, completing a three-day, 880-kilometre voyage through an arena of the seven-year-old Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

They were escorted by three navy warships, part of the nine-unit Middle East task force which is patrolling the region.

The Bridgeton, formerly Al Rakkah, and Gas Prince, formerly Al Minagish, were the first of 11 state-owned Kuwaiti oil vessels to be registered in the United States and escorted by U.S. navy warships in the Gulf.

Initial reports had said that only one of the Bridgeton's compartments was flooded by the mine that hit some three metres below the water line, and that the ship might be able to take on oil for its return trip to the mouth of the Gulf.

"The Bridgeton should not be loaded before it is repaired," the expert in Dubai, a centre for salvage efforts in the Gulf, said any attempt to do so "would be a political rather than technical decision."

A Kuwait-based marine surveyor, who like the UAE sources spoke on condition of anonymity, said it normally took "three days to a week" to patch holes caused by moored mines such as the one that boled the Bridgeton.

The surveyor said it took two and one-half days to patch a small hole in the Primrose, a 210,000-ton tanker that hit a mine in a deep-sea channel leading to Kuwait in June.

Shipping sources in Kuwait said a patch might allow the Bridgeton to be partly loaded. They said this would enable the vessel to avoid a full drydock repair job for several months.

The second convoy of warship-escorted reflagged Kuwaiti vessels was expected to begin moving towards Kuwait on Aug. 6.

Shipping sources said there were no signs that the mine that hit the Bridgeton had caused delays or cancellations in other ship movements to Kuwait.

Iran has been targeting Kuwaiti shipping in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on its own tankers and oil installations.

Iran accuses Kuwait of aiding Iraq in the Gulf war.

On Friday, Iranian Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani said

Floods hit Tehran, several killed

NICOSIA (AP) — Torrential rain on Sunday flooded the streets of the Iranian capital, Tehran, killing or wounding several people. Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said many shops and houses in the city's northern suburbs were damaged and that relief operations were under way. Tehran Radio said the mayor of Tehran appealed to residents to evacuate areas around canals and flood channels to minimise the risk of casualties. The radio quoted the mayor, whom it did not name, as saying flooding first began in the city's northern suburbs and spread southward to cover the entire city. The mayor said there were some casualties, but that it was too early to give exact figures or assess the damage. IRNA reported Saturday at least 147 people were killed in northeastern Khorasan province when a rain-swollen river burst over its banks. The Boojhan River overflowed Friday night following torrential rain in the region and a wave of water covered the nearby village of Boojhan. Boojhan is near the city of Mashhad, which is 800 kilometres east of Tehran. The region is bordered by the Soviet Union to the north and Afghanistan to the east.

African leaders begin Addis Ababa talks today

ADDIS ABABA (R) — African heads of state began arriving in the Ethiopian capital on Sunday for a summit expected to focus on Africa's foreign debts, the campaign for sanctions on South Africa and the border dispute between Libya and Chad.

Chadian President Hissene Habre was among the first to fly in for the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit, increasing the likelihood that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi would also attend to defend his country's position on the disputed Aouzou Strip.

Foreign minister from the 50-member OAU have completed most of the preparatory work for the summit starting on Monday and were to put the finishing touches to some 23 resolutions at a final session later Sunday.

The ministers had originally planned to wind up their one-week summit late Saturday but decided to wait for more commitments to report and for colleagues to fly back from a meeting of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in the Zambian capital Lusaka.

The draft resolutions, which seldom undergo substantial revision at OAU conferences, contain condemnations of South Africa and three Western countries — Britain, West Germany and the United States — perceived as supporting the white minority government in Pretoria by opposing sanctions.

West Germany wins special criticism for alleged plans to dump nuclear waste in South Africa-ruled Namibia (South West Africa), a charge put forward by the South West Africa People's

Organisation (SWAPO) but denied by the West German embassy here.

The ministers also singled out the United States for condemnation for interfering in the internal affairs of Angola by shipping arms to the South African-backed UNITA movement, which is fighting the Luanda government.

The ministers broke new ground in their approach to Africa's external debts of some \$200 billion, saying they felt African countries should not spend more than 20 per cent of their export earnings on debt service payments.

Africa paid its creditors some \$19 billion in 1986, about 42 per cent of the \$44 billion the continent earned from exports. For more than a quarter of Africa's nations the debt service ratio was greater than 50 per cent.

The heads of state will tackle the border dispute between Chad and Libya, using as their reference point the report of an ad hoc committee which has visited both countries under the chairmanship of Gabonese President Omar Bongo.

The dispute centres on who has sovereignty over the uranium-rich Aouzou Strip, a 114,000-square kilometre tract which Libya occupied in 1973. Tripoli bases its claim to the strip on a pre-independence treaty.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak also arrived in Addis Ababa on Sunday.

Mr. Mubarak had been considered a possible candidate for chairman of the pan-African body, but officials have said Egypt favours Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda for the post.

New Lebanese group threatens Swiss interests

BEIRUT (AP) — A previously unknown group calling itself the Green Cells threatened to strike at Swiss interests if a Shi'ite Muslim Lebanese hijacker of an Air Afrique jetliner to Geneva was extradited to France, newspapers reported Sunday.

France has not requested the extradition of Hussein Hariri, who hijacked the DC-10 plane Friday, singled out the 64 French passengers aboard and shot dead one of them before he was overpowered and arrested at Geneva airport.

The Beirut dailies said an anonymous man claiming to speak for the Green Cells made the threat in telephone calls to local newspaper offices and the Voice of National Resistance radio station on Saturday.

The station is operated by Justice Minister Nabih Berri's mainstream Shi'ite Amal militia. "We shall strike at Swiss interests in the (Middle East) region if Switzerland hands over Mujahid (holy warrior) Hussein Hariri to French authorities," the Green Cells caller was quoted as saying.

Newspapers said he hung up after delivering the threat in Arabic, leaving no chance for questions about himself or his group.

Hariri, 21, is a Shi'ite from South Lebanon. Relatives say he belongs to the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, or Party of God, Lebanon's most militant Shi'ite faction that sponsors groups holding 26 foreign hostages in Lebanon. The captives include nine Americans and six Frenchmen.

Few Swiss targets are left in mainly Muslim Beirut or elsewhere in opposition-controlled areas of civil war-torn Lebanon.

The Swiss embassy moved its operations to Beirut's Christian sector early this year after a new wave of kidnapping of foreigners

gripped the Muslim sector. Spokesman Franz Hunkeler of the Swiss Foreign Ministry said the government has issued precautions to some 100 Swiss nationals living in Lebanon, but declined to provide details.

Many of them serve with the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross in west Beirut and other branches in predominantly Shi'ite South Lebanon.

Others have moved to Christian east Beirut with the Swiss embassy.

The father of Hariri said Saturday he doubted that pictures of the hijacker of the Air Afrique airliner published in local newspapers were of his son.

"I think that someone else used Hussein's passport to stage the hijack," Mohammad Ali Hariri told Reuters in the living room of his one-storey house in Deir Kannon Al Naher in South Lebanon.

In Geneva, a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Nabil Ramlawi, who negotiated with the hijacker, said he doubted if the identity given by the gunman as Hussein Ali Hariri was correct.

"I don't accept that it is my son who has hijacked the plane," Hussein's mother said. "I am very upset because my son is a very calm and well-mannered boy and I don't know how this could have happened."

She said her son was a supporter of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), but had no direct links with the fundamentalist group or with the Hamadei

family. The hijacker's demands included the release of Mohammed Hamadei, held in West Germany on charges of murder and air piracy in connection with the hijack of a Trans World Airlines (TWA) plane in June 1985.

"My son works as a trader. He buys and sells clothes in Africa. We have so far not been able to call Africa to find out whether he is there or not," the father said.

Swiss on security alert

Meanwhile Switzerland has tightened security at its airports and embassies following a decision to put on trial the hijacker, Swiss officials said.

Swiss President Pierre Aubert ruled out turning over Hariri to the French, telling reporters: "The act of piracy was committed in Switzerland, therefore, it's up to a Swiss court to judge the crime."

Geneva Prosecutor Bernard Corboz said the gunman would be charged with hostage-taking and murder, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Swiss Foreign Ministry spokesman Peter Vogel told reporters: "We are studying our security operations very seriously. We have already taken some measures and others will follow."

Swissair, the state-owned airline, said it was taking tough new measures aboard its aircraft and at airports around the country. "We are reinforcing security measures on all our aircraft and in the airports at Geneva, Zurich and Bale-Mulhouse," Swissair spokesman Jean-Claude Donzel said.

"We are anticipating an increase in threats, particularly in the Near and Middle East," he said in a radio interview.

Egyptian financier killed in London robbery

LONDON (AP) — A gang of masked thieves stabbed and killed an Egyptian financier and injured his wife and a maid early Sunday after breaking into the family's fashionable home near Hyde Park, police said.

Ahmed Khalifa, 50, who suffered stab wounds to the face and chest, died shortly after he was rushed to Westminster Hospital, Scotland Yard said.

The gang had forced Khalifa to open his safe and fled with a quantity of jewellery. Police said they do not yet know the value of their haul.

Scotland Yard said at least two men broke into Khalifa's home in Wilton Crescent off Belgrave Square on Saturday while his family was out.

"They badly beat up the maid, who is in her mid-twenties, and lay in wait for the family," said a Scotland Yard spokesman, who by custom was not identified.

First to return, at about midnight, were Khalifa's son and a friend, both in their early twenties, who were threatened and tied up, the spokesman said.

Half an hour later, the spokesman said, the financier and his wife, Al Sharifa, about 50, arrived and were viciously attacked by the gang, who forced Khalifa to open his safe.

Italian priest kidnapped in Sudan flees to safety

NAIROBI (R) — A 60-year-old Italian Jesuit priest, Father Pio Ciampa, escaped and walked 160 kilometres to safety in Zaire after being abducted by unidentified kidnappers at Tore, south west Sudan, Jesuit sources said Sunday.

Fr. Ciampa was one of three Jesuits reported kidnapped in the same area last week. The fate of Father Joseph Pulicino, 36, a Maltese, and Father Salvatore Serrao, 45, a Goan from India, is still unknown.

A brief radio message from Zaire received in Nairobi said only that Fr. Ciampa was safe in a remote area of Zaire after walking for several days through rough country, including a game reserve.

All three priests were working with refugees in the Tore area, near Meridi, south west Sudan. A British nurse and three American teachers were kidnapped from their homes at Mondri, 100 kilometres north of Juba, the southern Sudanese capital, earlier this month. Nothing has been heard of them since.

Their kidnappers claimed to be members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which is active in southern Sudan.

Iran-contra probe enters final phase of hearings

WASHINGTON (AP) — The congressional Iran-contra committee this week are scheduled to interrogate Attorney General Edwin Meese III on the Justice Department inquiry that unearthed the diversion of Iran arms sale dollars to the Nicaraguan rebels.

Opening the final phase of nationally televised hearings that began on May 5, the committee also were to receive testimony from former White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

The trio of major witnesses, beginning with Mr. Meese on Tuesday, will testify in the aftermath of last week's account by Secretary of State George Shultz of an epic "battle royal" with White House insiders to get out the facts of the Iran-contra diversion.

Mr. Shultz accused his opponents of trying to subvert the constitution's system of checks and balances and misled the president. He said their effort to cut him out of key decisions on arms sales to Iran and diversion

of the proceeds to the Contras in Nicaragua was infused with lies, intrigue and deceit.

In questioning Mr. Meese, investigators will address suspicions that his initial inquiry into the Iran-contra affair was intended more as a cover-up than an exercise in full disclosure.

Critics say that although Mr. Meese disclosed the diversion at a dramatic news conference on Nov. 25, delays in calling in the FBI permitted stacks of potential evidence to be shredded or burned.

Mr. Meese has said that while he delayed one criminal investigation linked to aid to the Contras, he did not stall another.

He has rejected suggestions he should have called in the FBI earlier and said nothing he did was intended to make a cover-up possible.

Mr. Regan was White House chief of staff at the time Rear Adm. John Poindexter, then the national security adviser, and the late William Casey, then the CIA chief, battled with Mr. Shultz for influence with the president.

Mr. Weinberger, like Mr. Shultz, is known to have vigorously but fruitlessly opposed the plan backed by Mr. Casey and Adm. Poindexter to sell arms to Iran.

Mr. Shultz, following Adm. Poindexter at the witness table last week, treated with scorn the admiral's testimony that he had deliberately not informed the president of the diversion plan to give the chief executive "plausible deniability."

Adm. Poindexter had said he acted on his own authority and decided that the final word would rest with him.

Mr. Shultz, who is a statutory member of the National Security Council, said, in effect, that no member of the NSC staff has such authority.

It is the duty of the staff, Mr. Shultz said, to advise and assist, not decide.

Mr. Shultz repeatedly denied he and Mr. Weinberger could have been more vigorous than they were in attempting to convince the president not to approve the arms sale policy.

He said his relationship with White House aides grew so

strained — over issues unrelated to the arms sales to Iran — that he offered the president his resignation three times.

The most recent attempt at quitting took place last August and was prompted by a "guerrilla war against me" that he said included attempts to deny him use of presidential aircraft for official travel.

Although Mr. Shultz said he repeatedly tried to stop it and at times thought he had, the secret arms sale policy was instilled with a life of its own because of the president's desire to free Americans held hostage in Lebanon by terrorists linked to Iran.

The secret policy was in striking conflict with the administration's public policy — defended by Mr. Shultz.

That public policy included no deals with terrorists, no arms sales to either side in the Iran-Iraq war and all-out efforts to persuade U.S. allies to follow suit.

Mr. Shultz testified that throughout he was misled by Adm. Poindexter. He said Mr. Casey apparently tried to skew U.S. intelligence reports to support the Iranian arms sale policy, thereby violating the principle of keeping intelligence separate from policy and involving himself in a "conflict of interest."

Mr. Shultz's most graphic testimony concerned his discovery near the end of 1986 of a nine-point proposal negotiated by wealthy entrepreneur Albert Hakim — a middleman in the secret network organised by Lt. Col. Oliver North — that included the release of terrorists jailed in Kuwait and the possible intervention of the United States on the side of Iran in its war with Iraq.

Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, expressed support Saturday for the reflagging of Kuwaiti tankers to give them U.S. naval protection in the Gulf.

Al Rai Al Aam said the latest Iranian threats "were not issued for domestic consumption but behind them lie aggressive plotting intentions which may be tied to feelings of total enmity to the character of the Arab Gulf, its language and the identity of its people."

Tehran has threatened to attack economic installations in Gulf countries backing Baghdad in the Iran-Iraq war if Iraq resumes air raids on its oil facilities.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), grouping Bahrain,

Kuwaiti paper calls for Gulf Arab support

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti newspaper called Sunday for joint action by Gulf Arab states to support Kuwait against Iranian threats to its vital oil exports.

Al Rai Al Aam accused Iran of laying the mine which holed the U.S.-flag Kuwaiti tanker Bridgeton as it was sailing towards Kuwait on Friday with an escort of three American warships.

The incident, the paper said in an editorial, showed Iran's "insistence on escalating and continuing its challenge to the will of the international community."

"There must be collective Gulf steps to support Kuwait and back its peaceful strategy toward defence of vital interests and facilities," it said.

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Iranians volunteer for suicide attacks on U.S. Navy

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Thousands of war volunteers have marched through a western Iranian city chanting their readiness to carry out suicide attacks against American ships.

"We, pupils of God's school, are not frightened of martyrdom," read one banner carried by volunteers at the rally in Bakhtar, shown on Iranian television and monitored in Nicosia.

They chanted slogans such as "no compromise, no surrender, war until victory," as they snaked through the streets of the city, previously called Kermanshah.

Men marched in one group, women wearing the all-enveloping black chador in another. Presumably the women were expressing only political support, since Iran does not draft women for such missions.

Tehran Radio reported earlier this week that "martyrdom-seeking" Iranian volunteers would stage large-scale naval manoeuvres in the Gulf and Strait of Hormuz early next month.

In the town of Sari north of Tehran, an Iranian naval commander accused the United States of using its navy to try to gain a military foothold in the Gulf.

Hussein Alai, commander of naval forces for the Revolution-

ary Guards, said the U.S. plan would go into action after what he called the imminent downfall of the Iraqi government.

"We are fully prepared to suppress any enemy act of mischief," he added in comments reported by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia.

Alai also expressed hope that the Iranian naval exercises next month in the Gulf, codenamed Shahadat, or "martyrdom," would influence Washington to pull out of the Gulf.

He said Friday's incident in which a U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti tanker hit a mine in the Gulf might help American leaders to come to their senses. IRNA provided no direct quotes of this part of his comments.

The planned exercises will be the second major naval manoeuvres under the aegis of the Revolutionary Guards, which has its own naval wing, in a month.

It was not clear whether the August exercises would coincide with the expected entry of a convoy of U.S.-escorted Kuwaiti tankers Aug. 6.

An Iranian military spokesman earlier this week said the manoeuvres would include testing new military equipment manufactured in Iran.

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Mines scare Kuwaiti fishermen

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti fishermen say they are scared to go to their best fishing grounds because mines might be lurking under the shimmering turquoise waters of the northern Gulf.

The fishermen still go out but hug the shore, frightened to go to offshore islands because of the risk of mines, which have damaged five tankers so far this year, including the U.S.-flag Kuwaiti tanker Bridgeton last Friday.

They said the most abundant fishing grounds around the islands of Kubbah, 20 miles out, and Al Qurah, 40 miles away, were no longer safe because they lay beyond Kuwait's 12-mile territorial limit past channels where mines might be laid.

"Now, there are big problems for everyone," fisherman Ali Hamed, 21, told Reuters. "I am not going to Kubbah or Al Qurah islands any more and I have much less fish."

Apart from mines, the fishermen also have to worry about Iranian naval patrols if they venture outside the emirate's territorial waters.

During the past few months, Tehran has seized several small boats off Kuwait for alleged spying, Kuwait says they were only fishing boats.

The fear of mines grew after the Bridgeton was holed as it approached Kuwait, escorted by three American warships.

Before the convoy entered the Gulf, Kuwait announced that the main deep-water channel leading to its Al Ahmadi oil terminal had been cleared of mines, which it said had been planted by Iran.

The fishermen fear new mines may have been laid. There is also a danger from old mines which have come loose from their moorings and are drifting on the current, perhaps just below the surface.

And a mine which would cause only slight damage to a super-tanker could blow a fishing boat sky-high.

So far no fishing boats or pleasure craft from any Gulf state have been hit but several mines have been spotted drifting off the coasts of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. Two small boats were killed by a mine which washed up on a Bahrain beach.

Sports fishermen are also scared and many have given up their favourite hobby. But others take a chance to escape summer temperatures of up to 50 degrees Centigrade (122 F) and a colourless desert landscape.

"The mines frighten me a lot, and sometimes I fear for my life, but I still go fishing," Anwar Azamil told Al Qabas newspaper.

"I am just more careful and I stay away from places that I have been advised not to approach."

Arens: Mideast conference may mean war

NEW YORK (R) — Moshe Arens, an influential member of the Israeli rightwing Likud Bloc, said Sunday an international Middle East peace conference was more likely to trigger war than to bring peace.

Such a conference "cannot provide the pressure-free atmosphere needed to resolve what is not merely a question of territory and borders but of Israel's very existence," the former defence minister wrote in a commentary in the New York Times.

Israeli conference supporters, some of whom want to surrender control of the occupied West Bank, are seeking international pressure "to cover their own acquiescence in a solution they pre-

viously deemed life-threatening," Mr. Arens said.

Mr. Arens, the chief ally of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, said the proposed conference was "a solution most Israelis consider not a formula for peace but a prescription for war."

"Shamir has said direct bilateral talks with Arabs are the only way to achieve peace," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Labour Party want the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France — to oversee talks.

An international conference would "increase Soviet power and prestige in the Middle East,"

Mr. Arens said.

"Direct talks, implying recognition, would remove a main obstacle to peace," Arab refusal to recognise Israel's right to exist," he said.

The dispute of the conference has threatened to bring down the Israeli coalition government. Peres has called for Shamir's resignation and early elections.

Iran frees Yugoslav ship

BELGRADE (R) — A Yugoslav cargo ship detained eight days ago in the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas has been allowed to leave, the Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug has reported.

It said the vessel, the 7,478-tonne Ledonac, was detained by Iranian warships in international waters nine miles from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, where it was due to deliver a cargo of household appliances and shoes.

Yugoslavia protested to Iran over the incident this week.

Qatar's population reaches 371,863

DOHA (R) — The Gulf Arab state of Qatar had a population of 371,863 when it held its first national census in March, 1986, the government has announced.

The Qatar News Agency (QNA) quoted the head of the state-run Central Statistic Orga-

nisation, Mohammad Mayouf Al Naimi, as saying that 217,000 people lived in capital, Doha.

He did not give any figures for expatriates, who are thought to comprise between two-thirds and three-quarters of the total population.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS
* Plastic art exhibition at the University of Jordan.

* A combined exhibition of pressed flowers and water colours by Hind-Lana Mawg and Tracy Barman at the gallery of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel (until August 6).

* Pottery exhibition by students from Yarmouk University at the British Council (until July 30).

FEATURE FILM
* "On Golden Pond" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

JERASH FESTIVAL (July 8-31)
Monday 27/7/87
* South Theatre:
7:30-8:30 — Syrian Folk Group

9:30-11 — The Moscow State Ballet Theatre

* Sound & Light:
8:9 — Children's Play: Butterflies Dancing

9:30-10:30 — French Trapeze Troupe

* Artemis Steps:
8:9 — Italian Puppet Show

* Forum:
6:7 — Jordan Armed Forces Band
7:30-9 — Local Folk Groups

CULTURAL CENTRES
Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 661026/7
American Centre .. 64371
American Centre Library .. 641520
British Council .. 6361478
French Cultural Centre .. 637009
Goethe Institute .. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 642403
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777
Hayra Arts Centre .. 603195
Jordanian Youth City .. 6671816
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 664251
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843355

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hayra Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Pollak Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal' (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesday.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Munata, Jabal Lubweideh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.

CHURCHES
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubweideh, Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Husein, Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubweide

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fayez calls House to session

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament Speaker Akef Al Fayez has summoned the House to session on Tuesday. The House will discuss and approve amendments to the 1986 general budget, and laws on the Audit Bureau and the Higher Council of Science and Technology.

Rawabdeh to attend cities group meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh left Sunday for Tunisia to take part in the meetings of the Arab Cities Organisation's Foreign Relations Committee beginning July 29. During its two-day meetings, the committee will discuss its general policy and the resolutions of the organisation's permanent bureau in its 26th session held in Damascus last April. The committee will also review the friendship and cooperation accords signed with other regional and international urban organisations as well as the organisation's participation in a number of international conferences.

Tawjihi transcripts to be distributed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education announced Sunday it will distribute the transcripts of Tawjihi students to schools in various parts of the country tomorrow. The grades are those of examinations taken by the Tawjihi students in the East and West Bank of Jordan last month. The ministry announced the results of the test last week, saying 61.1 per cent of the 64,581 male and female students passed the exam. The ministry's director of examinations Mr. Ahmad Al Taqi said private students who did not sit for the examinations through schools can obtain their transcripts from the departments of education located throughout the Kingdom.

Rifai receives vet group's president

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai received Sunday the president of the Jordanian Veterinary Doctors Association, Dr. Abdul Fattah Al Keilani and the association's board members. Minister of Agriculture Marwan Al Hmoud was present during the meeting. Mr. Rifai also received president of the Jordan Academy of Arabic, Dr. Abdul Karim Khalifeh and members of the academy's executive bureau as well as secretary general of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions, Samir Qardan, separately.

Resthouse planned for Wadi Shu'aib

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Tourism Authority plans to set up a resthouse at Wadi Shu'aib, lying between Amman and the Jordan Valley, according to Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily. The paper said that the resthouse will have a car park, children's playgrounds, and other facilities which will cost JD 100,000. Weekend vacationers normally pass through Wadi Shu'aib on their way to the Dead Sea or the Jordan Valley in winter season. According to the paper, the Tourism Authority will also build facilities for visitors to the desert castles of Jordan.

Internal medicine panel to be held

AMMAN (J.T.) — A general conference on internal medicine will be held in Amman between Sept. 8 and 11 under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, according to Al Rai Arabic language daily. The paper said that the conference, which will be organised by the Afro-Arab Medical Society, is to be attended by Arab and African delegates and specialists in internal medicine. The conference will be organised in cooperation with the Jordanian Society of Surgeons and the Friends of the Liver Patients Society in Jordan.

Model school to stress physical and mental fitness

AMMAN (J.T.) — An agreement was signed at the Ministry of Education on Sunday for setting up a model school on the grounds of Al Hussein Youth City, giving special attention to physical education.

The school, a joint venture by the Ministries of Education and Youth in conjunction with the University of Jordan, will be built on a five-dunum plot of land provided by the Ministry of Youth, according to the agreement.

The agreement stipulated that the Ministry of Education will build the school and provide textbooks, teachers and furniture, while the University of Jordan will offer its installations and open its swimming pools, playgrounds, restaurants and other facilities for the school children. The University of Jordan will also develop training programmes for sports teams and provide coaches for the school, according to Dr. Abdullah Oweidat, dean of the Faculty of Physical Education at the university.

Dr. Oweidat told the Jordan Times that children for the school will be selected from various schools in the Greater Amman Municipality and training courses will run in the afternoon while the morning hours will be devoted to normal academic courses in classes.

At present the university is providing special training to coaches who will take over the afternoon sports and physical programmes which will be mostly carried out on the grounds of the university and Al Hussein Youth City, Dr. Oweidat said.

Dr. Oweidat said children with special physical fitness will be selected for the model school which is estimated to cost JD 500,000. He said that work will begin soon, and the project will take about 18 months to finish.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Education said the syllabus and textbooks at the new school will follow ministry guidelines and programmes drawn.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi, Minister of Youth Eid Dahiyat and Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, president of the University of Jordan.

Khayyat attends washing of Kaaba rites in Mecca

MECCA (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat, now in Saudi Arabia heading a government mission for this year's pilgrimage, joined heads of missions from Islamic countries Sunday in the washing of Kaaba, a religious rite performed before the Eid Al Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice) which comes at the end of the pilgrimage season.

The ceremony was headed by Saudi Arabia's Prince Majed Ibn Abdul Aziz, deputising for King Fahd.

Sheikh Khayyat, quoted by the Jordan News Agency Petra, said the mission accompanying Jordanian pilgrims to Mecca has taken

measures to assist the worshippers.

In addition to the lodgings provided for the pilgrims in Mecca, the minister said arrangements have been made to house pilgrims at Arafat and Mina camps during the last day of the pilgrimage.

Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Under-secretary Abdul Salam Al Abadi, arrived in Mecca Sunday to join Sheikh Khayyat and the Jordanian mission. Dr. Abadi was in Medina to supervise the lodging and travel services offered to some 8,000 Jordanian pilgrims who visited the holy city on their way to Mecca.

Zarqa chairman urges tax payment

ZARQA (Petra) — Chairman of Zarqa Municipal Council, Badri Bahaudine Sunday urged Zarqa residents, merchants and businessmen to pay their dues to the municipality to enable it to carry out its development projects.

Mr. Bahaudine was speaking in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, in which he said that the municipality has

worked out a plan for building roads, bridges, public gardens, and health centres at the cost of JD 3 million, and it needs the funds to help carry out these schemes.

The municipality, he said, depends largely on its own resources which come in the form of dues and taxes paid by citizens and businesses.

Majali addresses gathering of students studying abroad

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the first gathering for Jordanian students studying abroad visited Sunday the University of Jordan where they were received by its president, Abdul Salam Al Majali.

Addressing the participants, Dr. Majali said that Jordan considers education as an effective weapon to enable the nation to

survive and confront new challenges despite limited resources.

He also pointed out Jordan is expanding higher education.

By the turn of the century, he said, the Arab World will need 160,000 people with post graduate degrees.

Dr. Majali also added that the university has created programmes that suit the needs of the local communities.

Arab banks' group holds 2nd day of meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting by the Federation of Arab Banks (FAB) on Sunday was addressed by Dr. Abdo Naji from the University of Cairo, who lectured on the importance of information and data for marketing.

This was followed by a general discussion in which the participants from nine Arab states took part.

The six-day meeting was

opened on Saturday by Hussein Al Oaseem, Central Bank of Jordan governor.

Mr. Oaseem observed that the oil boom in the Arab World in the 1970s and in the early 1980s had given a temporary boost to the banks and their operations, but that the economic recession which followed has had its adverse effects on the banks in the Arab World.

Jordan sends team to Special Olympics

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is sending the first Arab team to the International Olympics for the Mentally Handicapped to be held this year at Nottingham University in Indiana, U.S., from July 31 to August 8.

The Special Olympics will involve 4,500 people from 72 countries, taking part in track and field events. The Jordanian team, made up of nine members, will leave for Indiana Wednesday.

The team is headed by Dr. Yaser Salem, a member of the Jordanian Sports Federation for the Handicapped (JSFH) and Nazeq Al Harriri, director general of the Special Education Centre.

Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, president of the JSFH, will represent His Majesty King Hussein at the opening ceremonies.

Last year, the Jordanian Committee for the Special Olympics for the Mentally Handicapped was set up under the supervision of Prince Ra'd.

Weinberger rules out negotiations

(Continued from page 1)

controlled nuclear warheads for West Germany's 72 Pershing 1A short-range missiles.

Mr. Weinberger said that for the United States to agree to withdraw these warheads would violate a principle that the superpowers will not bargain away agreements they have made with other countries.

"It not only violates that, but the German Pershings are not on the table," he said.

"Gorbachev told the president that himself, that there was no requirement that we go into any third country or any other types of missiles. We are only talking about Soviet and U.S., and we are going to negotiate on that basis."

However, when asked if the Gorbachev offer was a significant step, Mr. Weinberger replied, "Oh, I think so."

"I think it is important to be in mind what it is," he said.

Calm prevails in Khartoum

(Continued from page 1)

also spoke on condition of anonymity, ruled out the possibility of a military coup.

"Things had run out of the government's hands and that explains the renewal of the state of emergency to control the civilians and not the army," he said.

A state of emergency was declared by the transitional military council which took power after Mr. Numeiri's ouster, and the government's announcement of the "renewal" of emergency laws created confusion Saturday.

But the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) quoted an official legal source as saying that the state of emergency had expired with the dissolution of the military council and general elections in April 1986.

The source, who was not further identified, said that the government had to present the emergency laws to the constituent assembly or parliament within two weeks for approval or rejection.

Under the emergency laws,

strikes and gatherings are not allowed, which is expected to have impact on the political life but not the day-to-day life of the Sudanese.

The laws suspend civilian laws and enables police to search and detain people without legal permission.

In declaring the laws, Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's government said they were to combat the shortage of essential commodities, the black market, smuggling and public disorder.

"In view of the disorder prevailing in the markets and the created scarcity in essential commodities due to illegal storage and speculation in hard currency in the black market and the robbery and illegal infiltration of weapons into some parts of the country, for all this and to secure the internal front against the enemies of democracy and the country, the supreme council has decided to declare the state of emergency all over the country for one year as of today," the government's statement said.

Bridgeton suffers major damage

(Continued from page 1)

Iran would strike at other Gulf Arab countries if Iraq renews attacks on his country's oil installations.

GCC backs Kuwait

Six Gulf Arab states on Saturday reaffirmed support for Kuwait's efforts to protect its shipping.

Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting in Taif, Saudi Arabia,

also welcomed Monday's unanimous U.N. Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Gulf war.

The council groups Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. It met in the aftermath of the new Iranian threats to strike at Iraq's Arab allies.

In a statement issued at the end of a four-hour conference, the six nations avoided any direct mention of Kuwait's bid to protect its shipping by registering 11 tankers under the American flag.

U.S. experts to survey channel

(Continued from page 1)

"Right now, I certainly wouldn't want to go back through the area we were in on Friday," said Capt. Youkers. "The mine is far and away the most difficult thing for me to defend against. One of the things I do not now have is the capability to defend my ships against mines. A lot of people are going to have to do some rethinking about this thing."

Capt. Youkers and Adm. Bernsen both said they would review the convoy's trip and make recommendations to Washington about how to do it more safely next time.

Meanwhile, the battleship USS Missouri left port in California on Sunday for duty in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, but the Pentagon declined to say if the warship would be involved in protecting shipping in the Gulf.

Qatanani, Canadian consul review UNRWA's budget

AMMAN (J.T.) — The outcome of a two-day meeting in Vienna earlier this month to review the financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) was discussed at a meeting here on Sunday by Under Secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Ahmad Qatanani, and the first secretary and consul of the Canadian embassy in Amman, Michael Chesson.

Dr. Qatanani briefed Mr. Chesson on the subjects raised at the Vienna meeting which was attended by UNRWA donor countries and countries hosting Palestinian refugees in the Middle East.

Dr. Qatanani presented his ministry's views with regard to a report on the UNRWA's financial situation and the condition of the Palestinian people under Israeli rule, drawn up by Canada and Austria.

UNRWA, created 37 years ago by the United Nations General Assembly, receives financial donations which it uses to finance education and health programmes for the refugees hosted in Arab countries after their homeland was occupied by Israel in 1967 and 1948.

UNRWA's budget, unlike the budgets of other U.N. agencies, is dependent on voluntary contributions. The Vienna meeting reviewed the deficit in UNRWA's budget and the shortage of funds for financing the agency's operations.

To date, there are 2,145,000 Palestinian refugees registered with UNRWA and a staff of more than 17,000 people working in five countries and the occupied Arab territories.

The Vienna meeting was attended by delegates from Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt, in addition to donor countries.

Heart transplant patients in good condition

AMMAN (J.T.) — The heart recipients who underwent surgery at the Queen Alia Heart Centre were reported to be in good condition.

A spokesman for the hospital said that the four people who received kidneys donated to them by the relatives of the two heart donors were also on their way to complete recovery.

A team of heart specialists performed the seventh heart transplant in Jordan Saturday, making it the second such operation in three days.

The patient, Mrs. Ilham Yousef Mohammad, 25, is the

first ever woman to undergo a heart transplant operation in the Kingdom.

The second heart transplant patient, who underwent surgery on Thursday, is Hussein Al Abadi, 31, who received his heart from Ibrahim Qatawneh.

On Saturday evening, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad delegated the director of his office, Turki Al Khreisha, to convey his appreciation to the Qatawneh family for their noble act and also to convey his condolence on the death of their son Mohammad Ibrahim Qatawneh.

France alerts navy for mission

(Continued from page 1)

Speaking nearly two weeks after Iran machine-gunned the French container ship Ville d'Anvers in the Gulf, Mr. Raimond said:

"If Tehran repeats its attacks, we will take the necessary steps. They will not be small ones."

Defence Minister Andre Giraud said on Thursday France would send an anti-submarine frigate to the Gulf to step up its military presence there.

The Georges Leygues, built for anti-submarine warfare, has two Lynx helicopters on board as well as Exocet anti-ship missiles and a Crotale air defence system.

While France has not kept a permanent naval presence in the Gulf until now, vessels of its Indian Ocean fleet, which include three Corvettes, a supply ship and a number of smaller patrol vessels, go regularly into Gulf waters.

France has ruled out following the U.S. example of providing military escorts to vessels flying its national flag in the Gulf, where four French ships have been attacked in the past three years.

Defence Ministry sources said last week that French warships had occasionally accompanied French ships but the operations had never been made public.

Meanwhile, the French police cordon around the Iranian embassy remained unchanged on Sunday, nine days after the two countries broke diplomatic relations.

Judge Gilles Boulouque, the man who has demanded Mr. Gerdji present himself for questioning as a witness in the bombing probe, is being guarded by six armed police officers, according to the French newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche.

The Sunday paper reported that the judge has been eating lunch at his office in the Palais du Justice for security reasons and is preceded home each evening by an officer who checks the house for bombs.

The newspaper also reported that the judge has postponed his annual summer vacation to await a resolution in the Gerdji affair.

On Saturday, two Lebanese men, Abbas Khawaja and Mohammad Moussaoui, appeared before Judge Boulouque and were charged with "criminal association" with terrorists.

Mr. Moussaoui had been employed at a garage belonging to Mohammad Moushajer, charged in March with possession of arms and explosives and associating with terrorists, the French news agency Agence-France Presse reported.

Mabrouk

Mathews K. Daniel, a computer photo type-setter at the Jordan Times, and his wife Sara have been blessed with a baby girl, Sissy Merlin. She arrived on July 24 at 7:30 p.m., weighing a bouncy 4 kilograms, 60 grammes. This is the couple's second child. We all at the Jordan Times would like to wish them all the best and Mabrouk.

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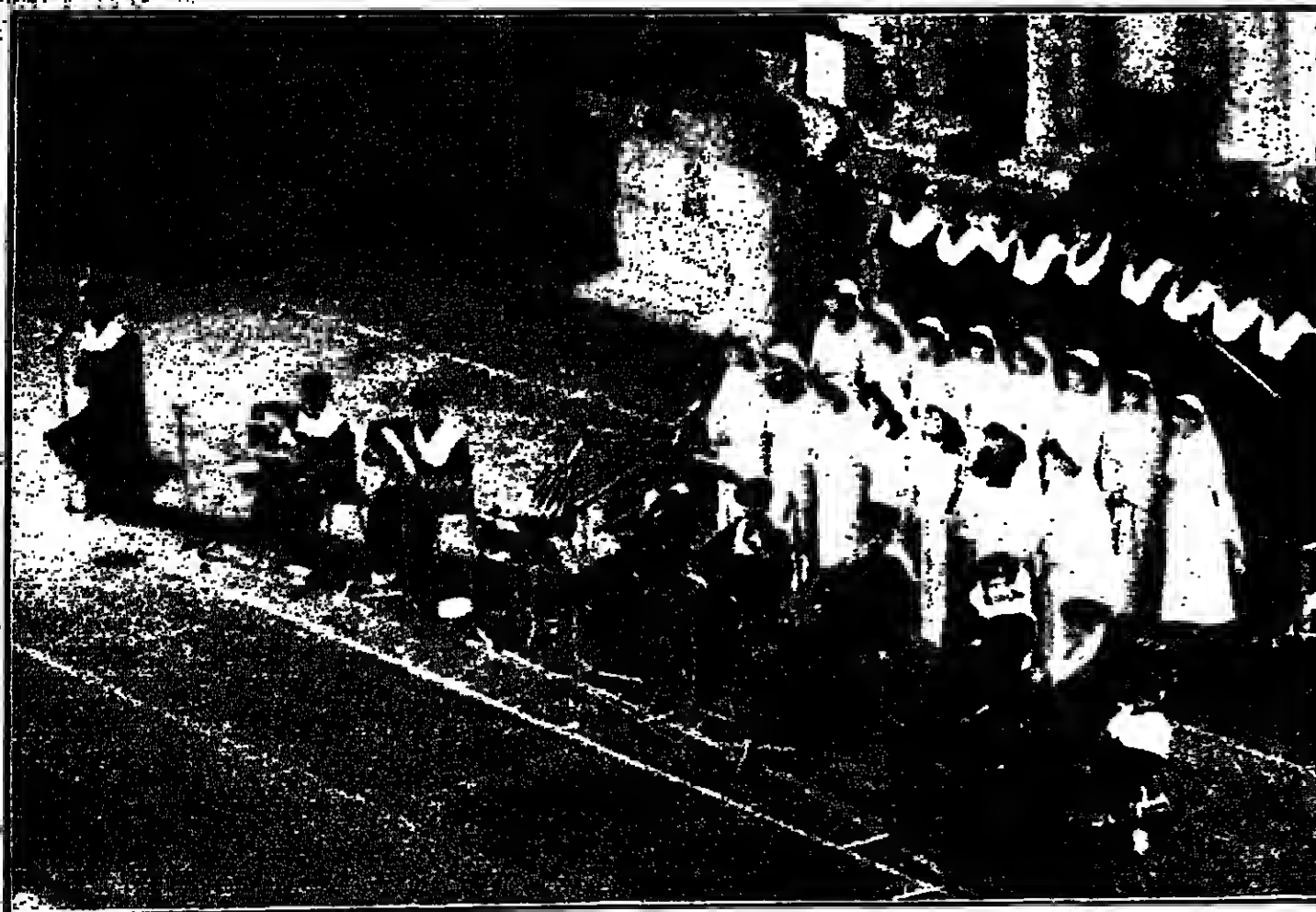
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The Fuhais Heritage-Revival Group sings recently on South Theatre at the Jerash Festival of Arts and Culture. The group has been

selected to represent Jordan at the International Carthage Festival in Tunisia being held this week.

Local Fuhais music group gaining int'l reputation

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Reporter

AMMAN — The Fuhais Heritage-Revival Group which delighted audiences at the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts with their melancholic Andalusian melodies reminiscent of the past glory of Arab civilisation — will do it again, this time in Tunisia, at the International Carthage Festival.

The 34-member troupe flew into the North African state on Sunday, to represent Jordan at the Carthage Festival where they are scheduled to give six performances over six days beginning today. The Jordanian group from the village of Fuhais, 15 kilometres west of Amman, was established four years ago. They made their debut at the Jerash Festival in 1984.

The group, all amateurs, drew the biggest crowd yet for a local group performance during two shows at the Jerash Festival with

over 6,000 attending their second and last show on July 15 on the South Theatre.

The audience was swaying left and right to the mostly melancholic tunes recalling the days of Andalusia and traditional Jordanian folk songs in which the audience, familiar with some of the songs, joined in.

The 2000-year-old South Theatre, serving as background, enhanced the richness of the performance. Numerous calls by the audience for an encore went unsatisfied as the group had to eventually finish their show and make room for another group to set the stage for its performance.

The Fuhais group was chosen by the Tunisian authorities in coordination with the Jerash Festival's Higher National Committee to represent Jordan at the Carthage Festival. Two Tunisian groups had earlier performed in Jerash.

"We are not a professional

group," Sam'an Hattar, the coordinator of the group said. "We are just a group of amateurs who have an interest in keeping this kind of music alive."

He says no one particular person was responsible for the establishment of the group and its success. "It is a collective effort, and collective responsibility," he told the Jordan Times.

The group, which became known to Jordanians through television showings of their Jerash performances, has refused commercial offers. "We are not in the group for the money," Mr. Hattar said. "It is a personal interest of each one of us to promote our traditional heritage. We do it for free."

There are no regular performances by the group and no cassette tapes sold in the market. But there is a thirst for their music, long missing from music menus on the region's radios and television, buried along with the glo-

rious history of Arab past. Few Arab singers, such as Lebanese singer Fairuz and Syrian Sabah Fakhri, sing the Andalusian Muwashshat and Mawawil, the trademark of the young group from Fuhais, a village of nearly 5,000 people.

The group members, who are between 17 and 27 of age, have been practising throughout last week in preparation for the Carthage Festival. The festival is to be held in three Tunisian cities: Carthage, Hamamat and Tunis.

Moscow Ballet to perform at 9:30

According to a spokesman for the Jerash Festival coordinating committee, the Moscow State Ballet Theatre will perform this evening at 9:30 at the South Theatre, not at 7:30 as indicated on the committee's schedule.

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Israel's 'multiple' threat

CREDIBLE evidence filtering out of Israel and elsewhere reveal that the new nuclear-capable medium-range missile, Jericho 2, has a maximum range of 1,450 kilometres and thus can hit Arab capitals and even some Soviet targets. What Israel has lacked thus far is a sophisticated delivery system capable of reaching the far corners of the Arab World. The recent military preparations of Israel are occurring at a time when we in the Arab World and elsewhere are impatiently waiting for an international peace conference to create suitable conditions between Israel and the Arab World. While there is no breakthrough yet in the peace process, Israel is hurriedly and persistently creating breakthroughs in its military relations with the Arab World. Whether Israel intends to deploy its nuclear capabilities against the Arab World or not is an academic question. What is certain is that its nuclear capabilities would most certainly be exploited by Israeli policy-makers as a means to extract the most favourable peace conditions for their long-range interests. Perhaps the timing of the missile testing is intended to reap the optimum advantage from the Arab World.

Also affected by Israel's successful test-firing of the nuclear-capable missile is the Soviet Union which intends to play a pivotal role in the projected peace process. It is an open secret that Israel has sought to extract from the Soviet Union many concessions, including those affecting Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union as prices that Moscow has to pay in order to be permitted to play its natural role in the politics of the Middle East. The timing of Jericho 2 testing suggests that Israel is seeking once again to blackmail the Soviet Union to make further concessions to the Jewish state. A breakthrough in the arms talks between the U.S. and the Soviet Union over short and medium-range missiles is imminent and the Soviet Union is eager to finalise a treaty on these nuclear-capable missiles as soon as possible. It is also a well-known fact that the on-going talks on such types of missiles have faced some obstacles lately with West Germany insisting on keeping its own medium-range missiles, the Pershing IAs, a development which would most certainly have a bearing on the U.S.-Soviet talks on the elimination of all short and medium-range missiles from Europe and Asia. The injection of the latest Israeli nuclear-powered missile to the scene at this critical stage in the talks between the two superpowers would most certainly offer additional obstacles in the path of the much awaited treaty on the short and medium range missiles. That explains the July 23 Soviet warning to Israel not to go ahead with its testing of the Jericho 2 missile. Otherwise, Moscow has cautioned, the "real-zero objective" would be frustrated and Israel would find itself thrust into the midst of the nuclear standoff between the superpowers. It will be recalled that the Soviet Union had decided earlier not to provide Syria with SS-23 missiles out of fear that the introduction of such a missile to the Middle East would pose a serious obstacle in the face of superpower negotiations. Moscow's warning to Tel Aviv was coupled with a veiled threat that if Israel introduces nuclear weapons into the Middle East, the Soviet Union would be forced to rectify the situation by providing nuclear weapons to its allies in the Middle East region.

Most probably, Israel will not focus its attention on how to blackmail the Soviet Union in order to extract more concessions in return for shelving its future plans to introduce Jericho 2 missile into the Middle East and complicate the on-going negotiations between the superpowers on short and medium range missiles. We think the Soviet Union will not succumb to the Israeli blackmail and hope that the international community, including the U.S., will see to it that Israel is denied another opportunity to threaten world peace and security.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Super and mini powers

THE Iran-Iraq affair has brought to light the truth about the United States role in the Gulf conflict and emphasised the fact that Washington enjoys no credibility in the Gulf zone. Likewise, America's role in helping Israel to build up its nuclear arsenal and manufacture rockets to carry warheads everywhere also contributed to exposing the United States policies in the Middle East region. Washington's collusion in helping Israel to make Jericho II rocket to carry nuclear warheads is part of a joint American-Israeli strategy. Both the United States and Israel had conspired to escalate the Gulf conflict; and the two partners are now involved in a game of terrorising our region with the threat of nuclear missiles in the hands of Israel. In contrast, we notice that the Soviet Union which had earlier warned the United States against transforming the Gulf region into a hotbed of international rivalry has now directed its warnings to Israel against its nuclear programmes. On the one hand, the United States has lost all credibility while the Soviet Union is being looked up to as a superpower characterised with objectivity and positiveness and support for peace in the Middle East and in the Gulf. It is time for the United States to realise that its attempt to subjugate our region to Israel's nuclear terrorism is drawing the Soviet Union into the arena. Moscow has now warned Israel that developing the Jericho II missile entails an open threat to the USSR. It is time for Washington to realise that involving the two superpowers in the Middle East conflict is bound to make peace further away than any time in the past.

Al Dustour: Iraq accepts peace

IRAQ has responded to the recent United Nations Security Council resolution with a positive attitude and a genuine desire for peace. Iraq has been displaying its keenness on the implementation of the resolution which called on both sides to ceasefire and start negotiations for peace. The Iraqi government in its acceptance of the resolution, said that it should be implemented in whole and not in part so that peace can be achieved. This Iraqi position has been welcomed by world nations at large especially as it is clear that Iraq is declaring its bid for peace from a position of strength which it has enjoyed throughout the past seven years of the conflict. Iraq's superiority in the battlefield has not caused that country to lose its genuine desire for achieving peace with its neighbour. Its government is insisting that the Security Council resolution be implemented in full and that Iran should be made to cease fire; and it has been cooperating closely with the U.N. secretary general for the purpose of implementing that resolution. By so doing, Iraq has displayed its awareness of Iranian manoeuvre which aim at achieving a ceasefire at the sea only while leaving the battles raging over the land. Iraq whose forces proved superior and holding the upper hand by land, sea and air is seeking a genuine peace and a total end to hostilities in the whole Gulf region.

Gulf waters cloud Security Council resolution

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

I SUSPECT that the unanimity that found expression in the United Nations Security Council resolution of July 20, 1987 on the Iran-Iraq war, may fumble and dissipate if and when the council attempts to apply sanctions on Iran and enforce an embargo against it. It was considerably simpler for the international community, through the U.N. Security Council, to arrive at an unanimous decision demanding an end to the fighting between the two warring countries, withdrawal of their forces to internationally recognised boundaries and a start of the process of peaceful resolution of the conflict through the good offices of the U.N. Secretary-General. Even the operative paragraph of the said resolution which envisaged the creation of an impartial committee to investigate the primary responsibility for the armed conflict is relatively easy in comparison with the principles envisaged for the projected, albeit hypothetical as yet, second stage U.N. Security Council which will address the situation in the Gulf should one of the antagonists, i.e. Iran, refuse to abide by the resolution and the time becomes ripe to apply sanctions against it. The articulation and drafting of this follow up resolution would certainly be uneasy if not outright formidable. The first hurdle in the path of any such sanctions-oriented resolution would be the determination if and when Iran is not abiding by the July 20 resolution. To be sure the criteria set by the resolution are not clear cut and there is plenty of room for all parties to manoeuvre. To begin with the demand to end hostilities on land, at sea and in the air is addressed to Iran and Iraq and by implication "other" parties may not benefit from this prohibition. What becomes of the fleets or freighters or oil tankers belonging to "other" nations when they are attacked by either Iran or Iraq is a question which surely is bothering many nations whose ships are sailing the Gulf and steaming through it from one end to the other. Witness if you please the July 24 incident which involved a U.S. flagged Kuwaiti supertanker, alias Bridgeton, hitting a mine in the northern part of the Gulf while under U.S. naval escort. Although

the exact identity of the mine cannot be determined with pinpoint accuracy all the fingers point to Iran as the culprit. Yet the U.S. decided not to retaliate and no one bothered to raise the issue of whether Iran has violated the spirit of the July 20 resolution if not its letter. Of course one can draw a distinction between the mandate of the U.N. Security Council resolution and the stated policy of the U.S. in the Gulf. It is an open question whether the U.S. policy and practice in the Gulf coincide with the terms and principles of the Security Council resolution. Just as can argue both ways, i.e. in favour of the U.S. naval escort of oil tankers in the Gulf as defensive in nature and in conformity with the spirit of the resolution in question. On the other hand, counter legal arguments can still be made in support of the opposing view, to wit, that the presence of so many armadas in the Gulf would still violate and contravene operative paragraph five of the resolution which called on "other states" to exercise the utmost restraint and to refrain from any act which may lead to further escalation and widening of the conflict with a view to facilitate the implementation of the resolution. It may be just this particular paragraph which restrained the U.S. from responding to the Iranian mine which damaged the U.S. flagged ship, albeit very slightly. How much this operative paragraph would continue to restrain the U.S. or other fleets in the Gulf from reacting militarily against Iran has yet to be seen. So far, this paragraph seem to have a salutary effect on "other" navies in the Gulf.

It is expected that Iran may argue silently that its mines in the Gulf are remnants of an era that preceded the July 20 resolution in an effort to downgrade the incident and similar incidents that may occur in the future purposely or involuntarily. It must be kept in focus at all times that Iran wishes to deescalate military activities in the Gulf because it has a vested interest in that objective. After all it is Iran which depends first and foremost on free navigation in the

Gulf for its oil exports. Iraq, on the other hand, relies heavily on a network of pipelines to export its oil to international markets. In this context, the national interests of Iran and those of the U.S. and its allies in addition to the other Arab Gulf countries could coincide and converge. What remains as a main sore point is the fighting on land between Iran and Iraq. All indications point to the conclusion that Iran may continue its attritional offensives against Iraq for some time to come. How the United Nations Security Council will handle this aspect of Iranian violations of the resolution is upper most, I am sure, on the minds of the Iraqi policy-makers. The international community may or may not get bothered by this category of Iranian contraventions if Iran keeps its cool in the Gulf and refrains from any act which could jeopardise its grand designs in the Gulf or antagonise any of the big fleets in the Gulf. If Iran becomes a "good boy" in the waters of the Gulf and remains the "bad boy" on land, it is doubtful that the international community can succeed in assembling a unanimous support for the follow-up sanctions envisaged by the Security Council when they adopted the July 20 resolution in the first place. The "big five" in the council, for example acted decisively on July 20, not out of concern for the heavy casualties sustained by both Iran and Iraq but rather because their immediate interests in the Gulf were threatened. Humanism per se is seldom the moving force behind U.N. actions especially in the U.N. Security Council forum. It is incumbent on Iraq, therefore, to put the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to the test as soon as Iran manifests intentions to continue its war against Iraq come what may. It must request an urgent meeting of the council and ask it to fulfill its solemn obligation to put teeth in its July 20 resolution by approving sanctions against Iran. I doubt that the members of the council will show the kind and quality of statesmanship and responsibility that they have exercised on July 20, but I sure would like to be proven wrong.

Soviets seen gaining popularity among Palestinians

By Bernard Edinger
Reuters

JERUSALEM — The Soviet Union, currently increasing its influence throughout the Middle East, is scoring a less publicised but equal success among Palestinians living under Israeli rule, political analysts say.

"The Soviet Union defends the Palestinian cause more than most Arab countries do," said Professor Saeb Erekat, a leading supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

A fiery nationalist from a prominent old Palestinian family, Erekat's philosophy is far removed from Communism.

But like many of the 1.5 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, he tends to judge the outside world according to its stances towards the Palestinian cause.

The analysts say that for the broad majority of residents of the occupied areas who support the PLO, the Soviet Union increasingly appears as the only major power favouring the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

More immediately, Moscow is seen as a protector of the PLO against its ostensible Arab allies, often as mistrusted by Palestinians as the despised Israelis.

Many Palestinians also appear to believe Moscow would not try to implant its ideology in a Palestinian state it would help create through an international peace conference.

Palestinians say the Soviet Union is aware that religious conser-

vatism is a major force here and that attempts to import an atheist ideology would backfire because it would radicalise religious elements into Iranian-like revolutionary stances.

Ironically, the Soviet union was the first foreign power to recognise the state of Israel, a fact which the small pro-Moscow Palestine Communist Party has found hard to live down.

The Palestinian Communists are still today committed to a two-state solution, allowing for a Jewish state.

Moscow severed diplomatic relations with Israel during the 1967 Middle East war and has only recently resumed a cautious dialogue, insisting the restoration of full ties could only follow a just peace settlement.

Analysts say the soaring Soviet popularity among Palestinians, reflected in newspaper editorials and the views of political activists, is mostly the result of two key developments in the past year.

Many Palestinians believe Soviet pressure helped save the last bastions of the PLO in Lebanon from annihilation in the "campus war" with the Syrian-backed Shi'ite Amal movement.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, at odds with PLO leader Yasser Arafat, is dependent on Soviet weaponry to maintain his stature as Israel's most powerful foe in the Arab World.

Palestinians believe Moscow told him he would imperil his arms supply if he allowed Amal to press the siege it conducted for months against Palestinian re-

fugee camps.

They also credit Soviet influence for prodding two hardline Damascus-based Palestinian Marxist groups, which broke with Arafat in 1983, back into the PLO fold.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine rejoined Arafat in April.

Some Palestinians now look to Moscow to reconcile the PLO and Syria.

"Communism is not a power among Palestinians and a Com-

munist list would probably get only about 10 per cent of votes if free elections were allowed here," said Daoud Kuttub, an editor of the pro-PLO east Jerusalem newspaper Al Fajr.

West Bank farmers and businessmen are deeply wary of Soviet influence.

"But there is a growing perception we cannot expect anything from the United States because they will always remain on Israel's side," Kuttub said.

Many Palestinians bemoan the lack of U.S. support because local society is attracted to American

ideas, because of ties with exiles in the United States and student and teacher exchanges with American universities.

While the Soviet Union has declared clear support for an independent Palestinian state, the United States believes areas occupied by Israel in the 1967 war should revert to Jordanian sovereignty.

Kuttub said an irony in the new-found Soviet popularity was that members of the Palestine Communist Party were upset because Soviet moves were accompanied by simultaneous cautious

overtures to Israel.

He said that since Moscow broke ties with Israel in 1967, the Palestinian Communists endlessly repeated that Moscow alone resolutely refused to deal with the Jewish state and this would always be so.

"Today there is a Soviet delegation in Israel for the first time in 20 years and most Palestinian nationalists see this as acceptable pragmatic politics in the framework of heading to an international peace conference. But our Palestinian Communists just can't adapt to the idea," he said.

W. Germans determined to keep their missiles for now

By Douglas Hamilton
Reuters

BONN — Moscow's latest disarmament offer puts pressure on West Germany to sacrifice its only missiles for the sake of a U.S.-Soviet arms accord but Bonn is determined to keep them for the time being, Western diplomats have said.

Instead of scrapping its 72 Pershing-IAs, whose nuclear warheads are the responsibility of U.S. forces, a compromise may emerge which could let Bonn hold on to them provided they are not modernised.

The Soviet Union this week agreed to Western demands for the superpowers' medium- and shorter-range nuclear missiles to be scrapped worldwide, not just in Europe as it formerly proposed.

This left the West German Pershings, which Moscow says should be abolished but NATO insists are irrelevant to a U.S.-Soviet pact, as the main obstacle to an accord on intermediate nuclear forces.

The diplomats, who spoke on condition that they not be identified, said Bonn's missiles were not a great threat but their symbolic significance made them a tempting target for Moscow.

"Political decoupling is the thing they're fishing for," one diplomat said, adding that the Soviets would probably not press the point in the long term.

"The main reason for Soviet insistence, rather than seeking direct inclusion of the missiles in

a deal, is to get at modernisation and prevent it," another said.

"They could then give up their insistence on scrapping the Pershings and present it as a magnanimous gesture."

The West German defence minister hinted that the missiles might be negotiated away in the future.

The Pershing-1A, deployed in 1964 and modernised in 1971, will be obsolescent in a few years. Its U.S. manufacturer, the Martin Marietta Corporation of Georgia, told West Germany in 1983 that it would cease stockpiling essential parts in 1991.

The West German air force's control of the Pershing, a shorter-range missile which can travel 720 kilometres, gives it a role as part of NATO's nuclear deterrence even though the U.S. control of the warheads means both governments' assent would be required to fire the weapon.

Diplomats said West Germany would feel excluded if its missiles were taken away.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Moscow's decision to agree to a worldwide ban on intermediate missiles was a breakthrough in the U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva but he repeated that West Germany's missiles were not negotiable.

Arms experts say the Pershing needs updating but modernising it while Soviet and U.S. missiles were being scrapped would raise the prospect of German rearmament in a period of superpower disarmament.

Without revamping, the Per-

shing-1A would start to run out of parts at about the same time as the United States and the Soviet Union completed the proposed destruction of their systems. This accident of timing could ease the way for a compromise.

Defence ministry spokesman Colonel Horst Prayon has said the Pershings could be the object of future talks.

They were "an important option which, if we ever want to give it up, must bring something in return," he said, adding: "This system could make the Soviets more flexible."

He would not comment on what would happen when parts ran out in the 1990s, saying: "It can be that this problem will no longer be posed as it is now."

Most newspapers warned Kohl that stonewalling would not work. It would be illogical for Bonn to cling to the missiles and risk torpedoing a major arms deal, they said.

"Germans putting the brakes on disarmament? That's all we need," said the liberal Cologne Stadt Anzeiger.

Kohl has pressing political reasons for resisting.

LETTERS

Retail plotting

To the Editor:

REGARDING your report (Jordan Times, July 20) on the plot being engineered by the Western countries to oust Dr. Edouard Saouma, the director-general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, I see that the Western countries, having mastered the art of wholesale plotting against the Arabs during the past seven decades, have now expanded their activities to cover retail plotting against us as well.

George Khoury
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters to the editor on all subjects of interest to our readers. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's signature, name and address. The name of the writer can be withheld upon request, but it must be included in the letter.

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مكتبة الزمان

Obstacles darken blind's prospects

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Every year, for the last 15 years, I apply for a job as an English teacher at the Ministry of Education with no luck. For 15 years I have been a private tutor," said Mr. Mohammad Afaneh.

"I receive a salary of JD 80 a month as a lecturer to prisoners and sometimes policemen. But I would much rather work in my field: In a law firm as a clerk for a start and then continue my career as a lawyer," said Mr. Saqr Shamali.

Both gentlemen are university graduates and both prefer to pursue their own careers, but because they are blind they face many obstacles.

Mr. Izzat Hafez is also blind. He has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Damascus and is fluent in Arabic, English, German and French. He works as a typist and sometimes as a translator at the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ). "I type so much, I dislike typing," he complained jokingly.

There are many other people who are like Mr. Afaneh, Mr. Shamali and Mr. Hafez, blind, educated individuals who seek to be employed in their fields.

The Friendship Society for the Blind (FSB) was established in 1977 in order to serve the blind in the Kingdom, especially to help them in finding jobs to contribute

to society as citizens. The society, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zeid, has since succeeded in doing so. According to Mr. Radwan Tamimi, director of the FSB, there are 200 blind individuals who have attained jobs in different departments and institutions.

However, according to the society's printed statistics on blind employment, most of them hold minor jobs. For example, the majority working in government departments are telephone operators with a JD 60 to 80 monthly salary; and in the private sector, the majority are labourers with a salary of JD 50 to 80. The statistics show that the highest paid blind person is a Ph.D. lecturer at the University of Jordan; he makes JD 120. A sighted Ph.D. lecturer at the university starts out with an average of JD 185, depending on the department in which he works, according to a University of Jordan source. The statistics also show that there are three quarters more blind men than blind women who are employed.

Mr. Shamali, who is only 10 per cent sighted, and a law graduate from the University of Jordan, argues that there is injustice done in employing blind graduates merely because of their misfortune. He told the Jordan Times that he believes his salary is so little because of his blindness. "Government institutions

prefer to hire qualified sighted graduates than blind qualified graduates because they think that a blind person is unfit for a job. There is no law that protects our employment rights, and this is very frustrating," Mr. Shamali complained.

He continued to say that the blind's employment problem lies with ministers. He said that ministers according to the civil service code, must approve their employment, and that ministers usually do not employ the blind. "Our battle is with the ministers," said the young law graduate.

Mr. Shamali and the other blind men who spoke to the Jordan Times said that in other neighbouring Arab countries, there are laws that oblige private and public institutions to hire handicapped. In Egypt, for example five per cent of the jobs in every company are reserved for the handicapped, according to the gentlemen.

Mr. Shamali believes that the least employers can do is to try out the blind in jobs for a couple of months before rejecting them. On this point, Mr. Turkey Abaneh, treasurer of the FSB asserted that the society is willing to pay the salaries for a trial period.

About employing the blind at the Ministry of Education, Mr. Afaneh said that he recently met the minister, Mr. Zouqan Al Hindawi about the problems blind teachers face in finding jobs at government schools. The Ministry of Education, Mr. Afaneh maintains, contends that blind teachers face some problems in classrooms.

First is the black board: How would the teacher write on the black board for students? Second how the teacher would correct papers and tests, and third how would the teacher control a class of "shrewd" students.

Mr. Afaneh said that these problems could be easily overcome. He explained that instead of writing on the black board, blind teachers could use overhead projectors. About correcting papers and tests, he said that a wife or a friend can read what is written to the teacher to be corrected. "No one lives alone," he commented. Mr. Afaneh stated that it is not difficult to deal with students just because a teacher is blind. "We can use the 'oral approach' with students and make a small effort to understand each other. After 15 years of dealing with young students, I know that after an understanding

there is no way a student would make trouble," asserted Mr. Afaneh. He added that after explaining to Mr. Hindawi his side of the argument, the minister seemed convinced and that he promised to consider and find solutions to employing the blind at the ministry.

Mr. Hafez suggested that if the Ministry of Education finds difficulty with blind teachers, then the teachers could be hired to work on the syllabuses instead of teaching kids. Or, he continued, they could teach college students who are more mature than school children if the ministry is worried that they won't be able to handle "shrewd" youngsters. "But they think that we cannot teach in colleges before teaching in schools," Mr. Hafez added.

Accomplishments of the FSB

Besides finding jobs for the blind, the society has also succeeded in providing an education and special skills, for those who lost their sight at an older age: Special programmes were designed to train them on the Braille System — a system of writing for the blind that is made up of raised dots. Recently, the Canadian embassy in Amman had donated a Braille printing machine to the society. For the younger blind, the FSB facilitates their studies after graduating from Al Noor Institute and assist them financially in continuing their secondary and university education with their sighted colleagues. The universities in Jordan only take 90 per cent of tuition fees from the blind, and the society provides the students with text books printed in Braille.

It also provides them with tape recorders, walking canes, and typewriters at a 25 per cent discount, where the student can pay in small installments over a period of time.

The society has also assisted the blind in finding proper housing, where the FSB paid a major percentage.

Al Najah for the manufacture of wool and flies employ mostly blind people.

Several institutions give special treatment to the blind: They enjoy 50 per cent discount on airfare tickets on Royal Jordanian, free bus transportation, special discounts on telephones, and free insurance provided by several companies.

The FSB also gives loans without interest to blind individuals who have a convincing project.



Director of FSB, Mr. Radwan Tamimi (right) and Mr. Mohammad Afaneh, an English language teacher

Randa Habib's Corner

Loud audience

ALTHOUGH many activities are tempting, I was hesitant to attend the Sixth Jerash Festival because of former bad experiences. However, I finally overcame my fears and went to Jerash last Friday, and had a very good surprise. Things are well organised. Police were helpful and kind. At the entrance to Jerash nobody pushed, no one tried to force his way through without a ticket, no mess, no hitting.

Getting into Jerash's South Theatre was also smooth; and when the show started I had a feeling it was going to be one of those enjoyable evenings. Unfortunately that feeling did not last. Only 15 minutes after the start of the show, a large number of people entered the theatre. Being late did not trouble them a bit, and they made their entrance in the noisiest manner possible. All of them wanted to be seated in the front rows, and the fact that those seats were already occupied, did not bother them the least.

Families forced themselves into the crowd and "settled" just between the rows, sitting on other people's feet with their own feet touching the front row's people backs. Suddenly "Ahmad" would recognise "Nabil" coming in and climbing the stairs on the other side of the theatre. So he jumps and shouts loud the name of his friend to attract his attention. And with the music of the show on, Ahmad had of course to shout louder and louder with his children joining him in calling his friend Nabil. In the meantime, a bag of seeds is passed from one hand to another and everybody is having a good time eating them. You shouldn't even try to attract their attention to the fact that they are disturbing you, because you hope to enjoy the show in a calm atmosphere. They couldn't care less.

So, it is not the organisers of the Jerash Festival that we have to blame for any discomfort we find there. It is the public. Maybe, with time, this public will learn how to enjoy artistic shows in silence, and how to respect an audience.

U.S. shooting divides a West Bank town

By Jocelyn Noveck
The Associated Press

DEIR DIBHAN, Occupied West Bank — What began as a business dispute in the United States has plunged this West Bank town into a bitter clan feud, severing lifelong bonds and triggering a stabbing, a gang beating and a courtroom riot.

"We've had 7-year-olds here ready to strangle each other," said Lamiah Subah, 21, "life has been a mess."

According to Deir Dibhan residents, the story began one day in March 1986 in Gallup, New Mexico, a small town in the southern United States.

Frank Abdelhadi, a member of the Deir Dibhan's largest clan, pulled out a gun during a fight over some turquoise jewelry in a parking lot and fatally shot the Nassar brothers, from the town's second largest clan. Abdelhadi, who claimed self-defence, was acquitted on all charges a few weeks later in a New Mexico court.

But in Deir Dibhan, a much fiercer process of accounting has to take place — and it was just beginning. At first glance, Deir Dibhan hardly seems the sort of setting for a blood feud. Rolling hills provide a peaceful backdrop for the elaborate villas that dot the landscape, many accompanied by swimming pools, basketball hoops and big, shiny cars.

Nearly half of Deir Dibhan's 9,000 residents are at any given time living and working in the United States, a phenomenon that has earned the town its nickname of "little America."

Mayor Yusuf Ghanam explained that residents of Deir Dibhan, some 16 kilometres from Jerusalem, go to America to make the money they need "to come back and build their palaces."

"Wait 'til you see this place in a few years," said Ghanam, who prefers to be called "Joe." "We'll have McDonalds and shopping malls. We'll be the most modern town around."

But Ghanam acknowledged modernisation can be slow, especially when it comes up against centuries of tradition — as it did after the Gallup shootings.

Rubbi Subah, Lamiah's uncle and a member of Abdelhadi's clan, said the town was thrown into turmoil when the oews arrived from Gallup.

"All the shops closed down," he said. "The young men from

the (Abdelhadi) clan had to leave temporarily. And the town became divided into upper and lower halves — each occupied by one clan."

Several days later, according to Subah and Ghanam, some 200 Arab dignitaries, including mayors of the largest West Bank cities, arrived to work out a settlement.

Abdelhadi's clan was asked to pay \$36,000 to the victims' family, mostly to cover costs of flying the bodies back from New Mexico and burying them.

Each clan was ordered to stay in its part of town, except to travel to school and to the central mosque.

For youngsters like Lamiah, the abrupt change was bewildering. "All of a sudden, we were set back 100 years," she complained.

But for Ghanam, a member of the slain boys' clan, it was no surprise.

"The whole concept of hamoula — Arabic for clan — means that we carry one another's burdens," he said. "When a crime is committed, it is committed against every member of the victim's clan."

Just as important is the concept of vengeance, Ghanam said. "Our holy book, the Koran,

states it clearly: A murderer must be murdered," he said. "And that responsibility lies with the immediate family."

In May, the father of the dead Nassar boys cornered Abdelhadi's uncle as he was sipping coffee in nearby Ramallah and stabbed him three times.

Daoud Subah, 67, was hospitalised for several weeks. The elder Nassar was sentenced to seven years in prison.

As the sentence was announced in Ramallah last summer, the two clans began a courtroom fight that spilled into two towns and stopped only when Israeli troops intervened.

Fighting renewed a day after the court session when an angry group of youths from Nassar's clan ambushed Subah in Ramallah and beat him. The incident led to another meeting between the two clans to cool tensions.

But the feud continues. Mayor Ghanam is confident the crisis will pass. But even he grew solemn as he remembered the aftermath of a previous killing of a Deir Dibhan resident, some 30 years ago in Brazil.

"The dead man's son was only two years old when the killing took place, and a settlement reached," Ghanam recalled.



His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zeid, the honorary chairman of the FSB listens to British Ambassador John Cotes addressing a blind gathering, while FSB board member Abdullah Khasawneh (right) looks on.

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CHEESE FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY



Ireland's Roche joins cycling legends

French cyclist wins women's Tour de France edging defending champion Maria, of Italy

PARIS (R) — Irishman Stephen Roche won the Tour de France on Sunday, sealing his triumph on the Champs-Elysees to become only the fifth man to complete the double of the French and Italian Tours in the same year.

The 27-year-old Duhliner, the first rider from the British Isles to take the world's most famous cycle race, won the 26-day event after seizing the lead in a critical time trial on Saturday from his main rival, Pedro Delgado of Spain.

Delgado, who held the overall lead for five days in the final week, finished second overall while France's best hope, Jean-Francois Bernard, was third. To add to the English-speaking triumph in the French classic — won last year by U.S. rider Greg Lemond — American Jeff Pierce

won the 25th and final stage after a sprint through central Paris. The victory moved Roche into the elite company of Bernard Hinault and Jacques Anquetil of France, Eddy Merckx of Belgium and Fausto Coppi of Italy, all of whom won the Giro d'Italia and the Tour de France in the same year.

Roche, of the Carrera team, used courage, tactical intelligence and sheer physical strength to join that elite group, defeating 207 competitors on 23 teams over the rugged 4,000-kilometre (2,485-mile) course.

Roche was scheduled to fly to Dublin Monday on a special Aer Lingus flight to be welcomed and honoured by his countrymen. A special "imperial bus" was chartered to carry him from the airport to downtown Dublin, Irish Radio RTE reported.

Throughout the race, Roche was nearly always the first rider to be interviewed by French Television — win or lose. French readers followed Roche daily in newspaper stories, which reported on his performance regardless of his ranking.

Roche, whose 1986 season was marred by a knee injury, burst onto the professional cycling scene with a dazzling win at the Paris-Nice classic in his first month of competition at the age of 21.

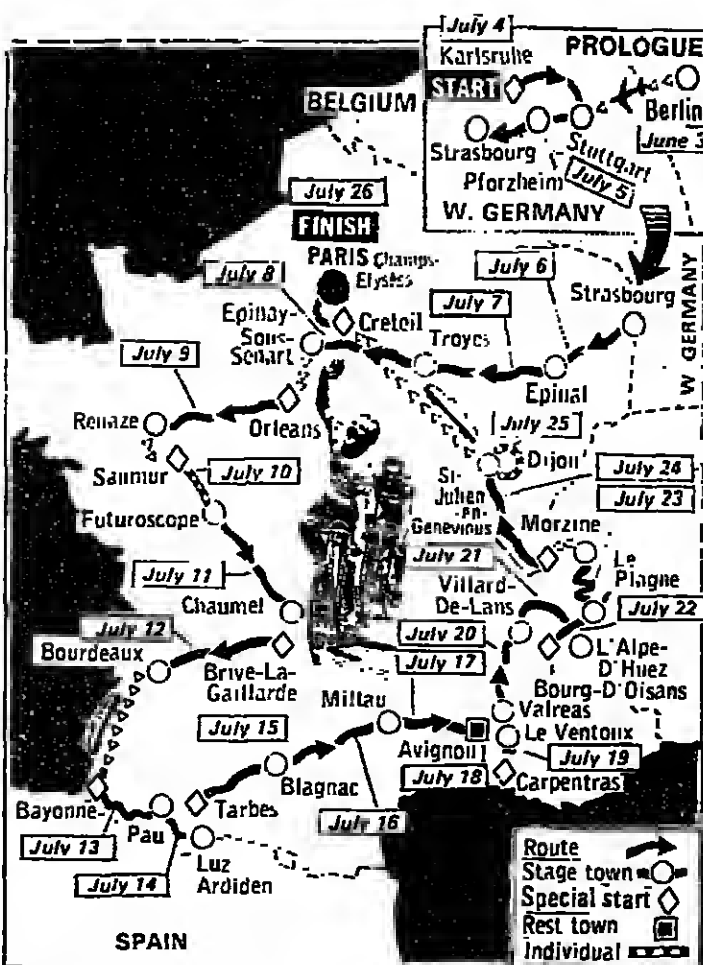
Jeannie Longo of France crossed the finish line to win the 4th women's Tour de France, beating defending champion Maria Canins of Italy.

Soviet cyclist Tamara Poliakova won the final 56-kilometre stage of the race from Chaville to Paris.

The win was a special triumph for Longo, who has finished second in Canins in the last two Tour de France races, losing last year by more than 15 minutes.

Longo has improved considerably in the mountain stages and it was her performance July 23 in the last Alpine stage which gave her the lead.

Longo broke away on the final climb and made ground on the descent to win the 46-kilometre 13th stage, 21 minutes, 54 seconds ahead of Canins to ensure victory



overall. Longo and Canins have dominated this event with a gap of over ten minutes on the rest of the field.

Ute Enzenauer of West Germany came in third, 12 minutes, 13 seconds behind Longo. Tamara Poliakova of the Soviet Union was fourth, 16 minutes, 6 seconds back.

Piquet speeds to victory in W. German race

HOCKENHEIM, West Germany (R) — Nelson Piquet ended a run of four second places when he won the West German Grand Prix Sunday and took over from fellow Brazilian Ayrton Senna as leader of the world drivers' championship.

Piquet, driving a Williams, emerged victorious after a dramatic and gruelling race with a comfortable margin but only after world champion Alain Prost of France, in a McLaren, retired while leading four laps from home.

For Piquet, who now leads the title race with 39 points from Senna on 35, it was his third win at the West German race and second in successive years. It was the 18th Grand Prix win of his career.

Senna, who was leading in

world championship points before the race, picked up four points for the third-place finish. He now holds a total of 35 points and second place in the standings.

Piquet grabbed the lead in the 40th lap, when France's Alain Prost pulled out of the race. Prost, the defending world champion, had led throughout much of the 44-lap contest, battling off Piquet and other contenders.

Britain's Nigel Mansell, who started in the pole position, pulled off the 26th lap with technical problems after a strong showing in the opening rounds.

Just two laps before withdrawing, Mansell set a new lap record of 1:45.716. The previous record of 1:46.60 was set last year by Austria's Gerhard Berger.

Piquet's Williams teammate and arch-rival Nigel Mansell of

Britain, who was looking to complete a hat-trick, retired when his engine failed after 26 laps and the race ended with only seven cars still running.

Stefan Johansson of Sweden brought his McLaren home in second place despite a burst front right tyre on the closing lap. Senna was third.

The naturally aspirated Tyrrells of Frenchman Philippe Streiff and Briton Jonathan Palmer took fourth and fifth places, a full lap behind with Philippe Alliot of France finishing sixth in the naturally aspirated Lola.

Piquet's winning time was one hour 21 minutes and 25.091 seconds. But teammate Mansell recorded the fastest lap of the circuit with a 24th lap of 1:45.716 before he retired.

Colombian defeats Mexican in bantamweight fight

MIAMI (AP) — Miguel "Happy" Lora of Colombia stopped Antonio Avelar of Mexico in the fourth round on Saturday night in defending his World Boxing Council (WBC) bantamweight title.

The fight was halted briefly after 40 seconds in the first round because loose canvas in the ring was bobbing too much, but both fighters agreed to continue.

The fourth-round flurry that finished Avelar started with a stunning right. Once Avelar was on the ropes, Lora pummeled him until referee Jose Simon Delina of Venezuela stepped in to stop the scheduled 12-round bout.

Lora was swinging wildly and missing with most of his punches in the first round.

The fight was Lora's fourth defence since he won the title with a 12-round decision over Daniel Zaragoza in Aug. 1985 in Miami.

Park retains IBF title with knockout

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Park Chong-Pal of South Korea knocked out Uganda's Emmanuel Oti in the fourth round of a scheduled 15-round title bout Sunday and retained his International Boxing Federation (IBF) super middleweight championship.

The knockout came towards the end of the fourth round when the 27-year-old challenger fell under a flurry of body blows.

It was the first knockdown in the fight, which was held in Kwangju, south of Seoul.

The bout was Park's eighth defence of the title he wrested from Murray Sutherland of the United States in July 1984.

Australia, India advance to Davis Cup semifinals

NEW YORK (AP) — India became the first country to advance to the semifinals of the 1987 Davis Cup Saturday, clinching a win over Israel with a doubles victory.

Brothers Vijay and Anand Amritraj beat the Israeli team of Shlomo Glickstein and Gilad Bloom in straight sets to clinch the best-of-five series 3-0 in New Delhi. The Indian team won the match 6-2, 6-2, 7-5 in just under two hours.

In other quarterfinals Saturday, France cut Sweden's lead to 2-1, Spain took a 2-1 lead over Paraguay, and Australia beat Mexico 3-0.

While some countries were battling for spots in the 1987 Davis Cup semifinals, others were playing for spots in the 1988 field.

Zonal winners will replace losers of the relegation matches in the 1988 field.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

China sweeps to record gold haul

SINGAPORE (R) — China ended the Asian Track and Field Championships Sunday with a total gold medal haul of 21, way ahead of its rivals, as sprinters Tial Mansoor of Qatar and India's P.T. Usha stole the hearts of the crowd. Chinese athletes won five of Sunday's eight events, including the men's 20-km walk and the women's 1500 metres and high-jump. Their gold tally broke their own games record of 19, set two years ago in Jakarta. Qatar finished in second place with five golds thanks to Mansoor, who won a 100 metres relay victory Sunday to cap 100 metres and 200 metres solo wins earlier in the games. Mansoor, a 23-year-old soldier, made up a five-metre deficit in the fourth leg on China's Li Tao, who faded after glancing nervously at his rival; Qatar's time of 39.20 seconds, loudly applauded by the crowd, was a championship record. China was second in 39.40 and Taiwan took the bronze. China made no mistake in the women's 100 metres relay, winning in 52.49 seconds, with India second in 45.49 seconds after a fast final leg by Usha. Taiwan again took third place.

Japan's Hoshino wins auto race

SENDAI, Japan (AP) — Kazuyoshi Hoshino of Japan, driving a Lora T87 Honda, won the Sugo F3000 Auto Race Sunday, beating Britain's Geoff Lees by 36 seconds. Hoshino needed 52 minutes, 13.41 seconds to cover 41 laps over the 3.7-kilometre Sugo International Race course in northern Japan. Driving a Lora T87 Honda, Lees started from the pole position, but finished second in 52:49:50. Keiji Matsumoto, in a Lora T87 DFV, came in third in 53:17:31. Nineteen cars started and 13 finished the race.

Olympic athletes get married

CHICAGO (AP) — Professional boxer and Olympic gold medalist Henry Tillman and Olympic torch bearer Gina Hemphill were married Saturday, nearly three years after they first met at the 1984 Summer Olympics. They were married on the University of Chicago campus. Hemphill, 26, granddaughter of 1936 Olympic champion Jesse Owens, carried the torch and lit the Olympic flame at the start of the 1984 summer games in Los Angeles. "The first time I ever saw her in my life was when I saw her running with the torch," said Tillman, a 26-year-old heavyweight.

Soviets win under-16 World Cup on penalties

TORONTO (R) — The Soviet Union beat defending champions Nigeria 3-1 on penalties to win the Under-16 World Cup Soccer final on Saturday.

Striker Yuri Nikiforov, the tournament's leading scorer, slammed home his side's fifth and final penalty to secure the victory after the sides had finished 1-1 at the end of full-time and after extra time.

Soviet goalkeeper Yuri Okroshtidze dived low and to the right to save Taiwo Eneogwea's first penalty after Sergei Benjennar had scored with the Russians' first spot kick.

Oleg Matveev found the net with the Soviets' second kick and Ojidejemi Mohammad made it 2-1 before Mirdjalil Kasymov and Christopher Nwoso both missed with their sides' third attempts.

Nigerian goalkeeper Lemmy Isa made a spectacular save to turn round the Russians' fourth effort from Yuri Mokritski and keep alive the Africans' hopes of retaining the trophy.

But Bawa Abdulahi squandered the next chance to level the shoot-out when he hit his effort wide and Nikiforov stepped up to slam his shot into the centre of the net as Isa dived.

Khan beaten for 2nd time in 6 years

SYDNEY (R) — World number one Jahangir Khan suffered only his second defeat in six years when he was beaten in five games by Australia's Rodney Martin in the Sydney Grand Prix Squash Tournament final on Sunday. Second seed Martin recovered from a two-game deficit to topple Jahangir 7-9, 4-9, 9-7, 10-8, 9-6 in 90 minutes. The 23-year-old Pakistani's only previous loss since the 1981 British Open was a defeat by New Zealand's Ross Norman in the World Open final in Toulouse, France, last November.

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Monaco, Bordeaux and Toulouse cruise into top French League table

PARIS (R) — Favourites Monaco, Toulouse and double champions Bordeaux have hoisted themselves to the top of the French League table after a second high-scoring day of first Division play.

Monaco, who trounced Marseille 3-1 in the opening match of the season on Saturday, repeated their goal-bombing form with a 3-1 away win against Lens — contributing handsomely to a total of 30 First Division goals after 29 last week.

Kept from scoring in the first half, Monaco seized the lead in the 54th minute and England striker Mark Hateley followed quickly with his second goal in two matches for his new club.

Ivory Coast import Youssouf Fofana sealed the win with a goal in the 79th minute while Lens salvaged some of its honour with a last minute goal.

Bordeaux also displayed their scoring power with a 3-1 away win over Auxerre, erasing doubts about their form raised last week by a narrow 3-2 home win over Metz.

Yugoslav striker Zlatko Vujovic netted his second goal of the season to put Bordeaux in the lead in the 23 minutes while youthful Philippe Fargeon scored two quick goals in the 61st and 69th minute.

Toulouse, the other front-runner, also had little trouble on the second day of the season but hesitancy before the goal gave them only a 1-0 margin against Laval.

Marseille, putting their defeat by Monaco behind them, showed no mercy for newly promoted Cannes, with international striker Jean-Pierre Papin contributing two goals to a 3-0 win.



HELLO FANS! : Al Faisali goalie Milad Abbassi dives leftwards to defend his net on Sunday against an Iraqi Army team strike. The Iraqi Army won the qualifier match 2-1 which was held within the Arab Soccer Champions Championship (Photo by Abdullah Ayyoub)

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هنا مت الأمل

Weekly Financial Report

By Fouad Batshon

AMMAN — Last week the U.S. dollar moved steadily higher but was still trading within a very narrow range. The main reason behind the upward direction was the fear among dealers that the central bank could interfere if dealers sold dollars heavily. The second reason was the uncertainty and unclear decisions taken at Venice between the leaders of the seven industrial nations.

The dollar traded between 0.342-0.348 fils on the Jordanian market. Local banks were covering their short dollar position because of fear that the dollar could resume its upward direction.

Charts indicate that the dollar could move a little lower this week because of dollar selling from some banks.

The expected range for this week could be 0.340-0.348 fils.

The pound sterling traded much lower against the dollar because of the dollar's strength.

The pound traded between 0.5525-0.5570 fils. The D.M. and S.F. also traded lower because of the higher dollar.

The D.M. traded between 0.185-0.187 fils, the Swiss franc between 0.215-0.220 fils and the Austrian shilling between 0.211-0.212 fils.

The Lebanese lira moved to record low reflecting the bad economic situation in Lebanon. It traded between (555-470) L.L./JD.

The Kuwaiti dinar traded between 1.200-1.210 on the JD, the Egyptian pound between 0.140-0.150 fils and the Iraqi dinar between 0.250-0.260 fils.

Metals traded higher at the beginning of the week but the strength of the dollar pushed them lower towards their support levels. Gold fell from \$454 an ounce to \$447 an ounce and silver fell from \$7.85 to \$7.40 an ounce.

Charts indicate that the metals have to test lower levels such as \$410 on gold before moving once again higher.

Gold price in Amman based upon the daily bulletin presented by the Jordan Jewellery Store are as follows:

Gold 21 carats per gramme JD 4.100-4.200
Gold 18 carats per gramme JD 5.000-5.100

Kuwait considers public debt issue

KUWAIT (R) — Finance Minister Jassim Mohammad Al Khorafi said Kuwait was considering a public debt issue to finance its deficit and expand domestic investment opportunities.

He told the Kuwait News Agency KUNA numerous ways of financing the deficit were under study "including a law allowing the government to issue instruments of public debt."

Kuwait, heavily dependent on oil revenue, has had a deficit in public spending every year but one since 1981-82, when world oil prices began to slip.

Gulf Arab emirate cuts salaries

ABU DHABI (R) — Salaries of expatriates working for the small Gulf emirate of Ras Al Khaimah are being reduced by five to 10 per cent, a labour office spokesman said Sunday. He said the contracts of expatriates would not be renewed unless they accepted the pay cut. The government of Ras Al Khaimah, one of seven emirates comprising the United Arab Emirates, employs about 1,000 foreigners, mainly Arabs, Asians and Europeans, in its workforce of 1,300. The emirate's deputy ruler, Sheikh Sultan bin Saqr Al Qasbi, told Al Khaleej newspaper the decision was taken because of "difficult economic conditions resulting from low oil revenues."

Cuba owes West more than \$5b

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Cuba owed \$5.244 billion to Western creditors after the first quarter of 1987 and will be seeking new loans and credits this year, the official Cuban news agency Prensa Latina said.

The agency said in a dispatch that the foreign debt at the end of March was up \$259 million from the \$4.985 billion owed at the end of 1986. No figure for the comparable 1986 period was given.

Cuba does not make public the amount of its debt to non-Western governments and sources.

Prensa Latina said the increase in the debt resulted partly from the recent fall in the dollar's value against major world currencies. The Cuban foreign debt is calculated in dollars, and a dip in the dollar raises the amount of the debt.

The official exchange rate was modified "a few months ago" from 1.21 Cuban pesos to the dollar to one peso to one dollar, Prensa Latina said.

Prensa Latina noted that Cuba has not made any payments on its foreign debt since July 1986.

G.M. reports drop in income

DETROIT (R) — General Motors (G.M.) has said its second-quarter earnings slid by 3.7 per cent to \$980 million from \$1.02 billion a year ago, reflecting the sluggish state of the U.S. car market. G.M.'s sales dropped to \$26.7 billion from \$27.6 billion a year ago. Sales volume fell 14 per cent. G.M. lagged Ford Motor's profit for the quarter in a generally lacklustre U.S. market.

Ford reported record quarterly earnings of \$1.4 billion, crediting strong gains in Europe. G.M. fell behind Ford's profit level last year for the first time since the 1920s. On an operating basis in the second quarter, General Motors' decline was even steeper, with pretax operating income falling to \$682 million from \$1.47 billion a year ago. Earnings per share dropped to \$2.80 from \$2.92.

African oil states adopt action plan

ALGIERS (R) — Eight African oil states have taken the first modest steps towards wresting control of the continent's oil resources away from foreign interests but admit that the task will be long and hard.

The first ministerial session of the African Petroleum Producers Association (APPA) vowed last week to pool the know-how it has gleaned since oil was discovered in Africa to maximise its oil potential and minimise dependence on outside states.

"Why should we pay Western oil giants for what we can get from each other? Instead of each country looking to outsiders for expertise, we should turn to each other," said one delegate.

APPA states — Algeria, Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Libya and Nigeria — vowed as a first step to set up a clearing house of information on every aspect of the oil business from geological structures to tax schemes for oil companies.

Over the next 18 months, they will hold seminars and workshops to pool data on oil development and production, refining, petrochemicals, marketing and training to create an alternative to the expertise they now buy from foreign firms.

Ministers and delegates said that it was a far from grandiose and realistic plan for an organisation which was only launched in January, but hoped that one day the group would grow in size and power to be a force to reckon with.

The emphasis will be on training manpower, "our greatest resource," Algerian Oil Minister Belkacem Nabi said.

"Our organisation is, of course, a modest one, but it has

great ambitions and will work together to achieve them," he told fellow ministers at a closing ceremony.

He gave no indication as to what the "great ambitions" were, but delegates said that they hoped APPA would one day be a commercial company, helping African states with oil deposits to develop them and those without oil to get it more cheaply.

One of the group's aims is to help non-oil states cut their fuel bills, which often eat away up to half of their returns from commodity sales. Aid, rescheduling and concessionary oil are some of the options being studied, delegates said.

They conceded privately that it was a difficult task, given the entrenchment of foreign companies in Africa and the continent's perilous economic situation. African debt is currently estimated at \$18 billion.

But given time, higher world oil prices to help their economies

and a step-by-step approach, delegates said that their organisation might grow to be a continental power house in 10 to 15 years.

"If, in 15 years, there isn't an APPA pipeline or refinery, then we will have failed," one delegate confided.

APPA pledged to work with the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to help stabilise the world oil price. Algeria, Gabon, Libya and Nigeria are OPEC members.

OPEC has reversed the oil price slide of 1985-86, when prices fell from \$30 to \$9 a barrel, and now dictates a world price of around \$20.

By backing OPEC, APPA will reap the benefits of higher world oil prices as well as benefiting from the group's broad oil expertise. OPEC is widely expected to raise its official prices by \$2 in December.

If prices continue to rise, it will make oil exploration across the

continent more economically viable and help realise APPA's dream of a powerful organisation stretching from Ivory Coast in the west to Kenya in the east and Zambia in the south.

OPEC's acting secretary-general, Mr. Fadhi Al Chalabi attended the meeting and congratulated the group for adopting its so-called plan of action. He promised that OPEC would give APPA any support it could in terms of data and information.

The OPEC Aid Fund, set up to help Third World oil countries, might also help with funds, although its brief is normally that of a bilateral aid donor, delegates said.

Between now and the next meeting in Luanda in January, the group must decide where to base a secretariat to coordinate the collecting and exchanging of data. Gabon is tipped as a possibility because it has good communications and transport.

Sudan imposes state of emergency to reform economy

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's government has declared a year-long state of emergency in a last-ditch effort to salvage a crumbling economy and curb social unrest but diplomats said the move is unlikely to produce significant results.

A statement by the president of the supreme council, the collective head of state, said the emergency was imposed to end market chaos, illegal hoarding of essential foodstuffs, black market dealings and smuggling.

The president, Mr. Ahmad Ali Ali Al Mirghani, said it was also designed to combat armed robberies, widespread in Sudan's southern and western provinces, illegal possession of arms and the disruption of public services.

But diplomats said they were puzzled by the announcement since a state of emergency, imposed when former president Jaafar Numeiri was ousted in a military coup in April 1985, had never been lifted.

"The declaration might be just a renewal of the state of emergency or perhaps an attempt to show that the democratic government can also be as tough as the army generals who ousted Numeiri," one diplomat said. "It might well be a storm in a teacup."

The announcement followed a wave of strikes by public service workers in Khartoum, a general strike in Bahr Al Ghazal province in the south and demonstrations elsewhere against the government's failure to improve living conditions.

The authorities closed schools in Khartoum indefinitely on Thursday after week-long riots by schoolchildren protesting at a shortage of teachers and books.

The diplomats said street demonstrations would be banned under the state of emergency unless they had prior permission and strikes would be prohibited.

But they did not expect the authorities to compromise civil rights and basic freedoms or to impose censorship since Prime

Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi's government had consistently sought to maintain its democratic image.

The coalition government took office in May last year after Sudan's first democratic elections in nearly two decades.

The diplomats said the emergency could also be an attempt by the government to show the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other creditors that it was serious in tackling the country's worsening economic problems.

A three-man IMF team began fresh talks with Sudanese officials Saturday on ways to reform the economy and repay about \$600 million owed to the IMF in arrears.

But the diplomats said the government did not have the manpower or the resources to exercise effective control over a flourishing black market in such items as sugar, petrol, flour, matches, soap and lubricating oil.

An official at the Sudanese office in Khartoum told the Sudan News Agency SUNA that it was virtually impossible for authorities to enforce government prices for basic goods.

He said 40 workers in the department monitoring Khartoum's 20 markets had only one vehicle to do the job.

Interior Minister Sidahmed Al Hussein has frequently complained that he has too few policemen, saying that low wages discouraged young men from joining the force.

Sudan, wracked by a four-year civil war in the south, has a foreign debt officially estimated at \$10.6 billion and has not been able to service it fully since the early 1980s.

The agriculture-based economy has also been hit by a crumbling infrastructure and slumping dollar earnings from exports and the remittances of Sudanese working abroad.

The dollar now trades in Khartoum's thriving black market for about six pounds.

Yugoslavia reveals bigger debt problems

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslavia revealed bigger debt payment problems than previously reported and said half its export earnings over the next few years would be needed to service its debt.

Deputy Prime Minister Janez Zemljarić told parliament 76 per cent of Yugoslavia's medium- and long-term debt — some \$17.83 billion at the end of 1986 would fall due for repayment over the coming five years.

Yugoslavia's total debt, including short-term credits, is estimated at almost \$20 billion.

"Regular repayment of principal and interest due the next few years, even if exceptional exports are achieved, will take more than 50 per cent of foreign currency earnings," he said.

This would pose serious problems for the country's economic and technological development and the government would soon reconsider the dynamics of debt repayments.

Mr. Zemljarić disclosed that in mid-July Yugoslavia had been unable to meet \$179 million of foreign debt obligations.

He said this was apart from \$240 million due to commercial creditors this month and postponed for three months.

He said Yugoslav commercial banks had also failed to pay \$350 million in bills to trade partners.

Turning to industrial output, he reported growth of only 2.6 per cent in the first half of 1987, well short of an official target of 3.5 per cent.

He said Yugoslav firms were running at just 63 per cent of capacity and large amounts of export goods were being returned from abroad due to poor quality and late delivery.

Mr. Zemljarić defended the economic stabilisation policies of Prime Minister Branko Mikulic's government despite its inability to stem an annual inflation rate of more than 100 per cent.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JULY 27, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Use your imagination to develop an original and progressive plan of action. With assistance from some influential friends, you could be sitting on top of the world.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be willing to engage in some activities of your mate's choice. Let your kind and charming side lead your day.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get busy early on changes you've been wanting to make at home, then have guests in and be proud.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Your communication skills will be extremely sharp. You'll have no trouble getting ideas across today.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Follow the lead of those who have proven track records. Listen carefully to their advice.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) New ideas and your generous nature can be used to great advantage. Avoid someone who usually nags you this evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Consider your priorities and pursue the goals which are most important to you. Show more affection to your loved one.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Being around many of your old friends could be very enjoyable if you let your fine sense of humor run free.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Efficiency in your duties and an effort to increase your property values will give you a good feeling of satisfaction.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Stay alert for opportunities which could yield rapid career advancement. Improve your wardrobe.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can relieve that "in a rut" feeling by controlling your tendency to do everything as an annoying routine.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) This may be a good time to purchase new furnishings you've been considering. Tie up loose ends you've left hanging.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Remember that there are others around who can help you or give advice. You don't always have to go it alone.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have a refined manner and attractive appearance. Be sure that these facts are not permitted to play such a major role that they will spoil your child. A good education is a must, and be sure to have good books around the house. Light sports are best.

THE Daily Crossword

by Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS

- 1 Truck-trailer combination
- 2 Confusion
- 3 GBS part
- 4 Urge
- 5 Exact
- 6 Net King
- 7 Twin book
- 8 Sales
- 9 Crosse
- 10 Monogamy
- 11 Gentle
- 12 Small child
- 13 Fall bird
- 14 Mark Twain
- 15 Read on
- 16 Laparoscope
- 17 Land
- 18 Denotation
- 19 Salt treat
- 20 Walk in water
- 21 Possessive
- 22 As stubborn
- 23 Spin like
- 24 "of Calaveras County"

DOWN

- 1 Rave
- 2 Fish-eating bird
- 3 Heless's static abbr.
- 4 Whodung you
- 5 Mink
- 6 Dangle
- 7 Islands
- 8 Intelligence
- 9 agency abbr.
- 10 Ocean
- 11 Engine cover
- 12 Wings
- 13 Marbles
- 14 — Sa-lal
- 15 Uncover
- 16 Treasury
- 17 Coarse slave
- 18 So, cheers
- 19 Dixie
- 20 Get up
- 21 Respite
- 22 Actress
- 23 Palmer
- 24 Poetry muse
- 25 "When I ope my lips let me bark"
- 26 (Chatterbox)
- 27 Coos
- 28 Legal paper
- 29 Bullets
- 30 Caution
- 31 Yanked
- 32 Ruas, mountain range
- 33 Shield border
- 34 Fly
- 35 "Moby Dick"
- 36 Unique thing
- 37 Recede
- 38 Arthur
- 39 To and

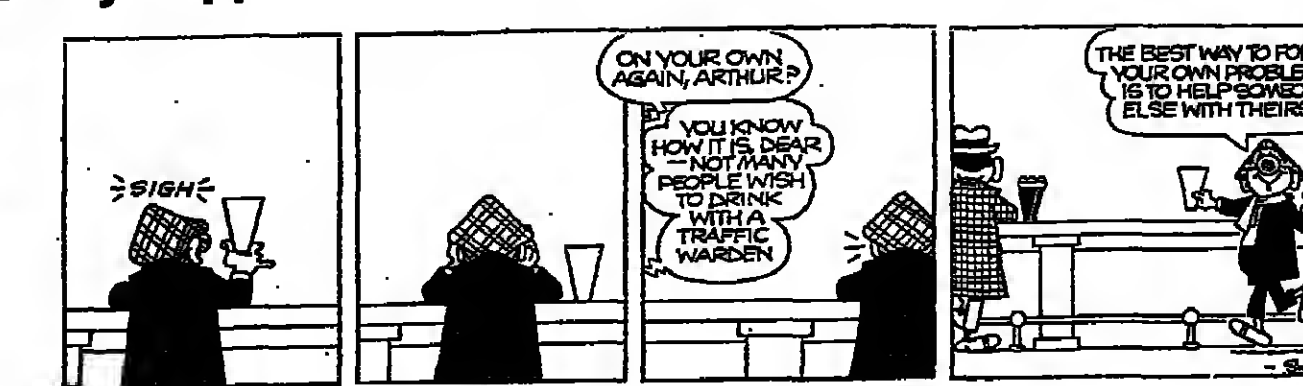
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SUIGE

GANGI

AXNYRL

HUHRTS

WHAT REPAIR WORK ON THAT AUTO MUFFLER CAN BE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "SCENTED-ROSES"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LOOSE CHAOS TYRANT SPLICE
Answer: What a nice bunch of fresh flowers makes — A LOT OF "SCENTS"

At least 50 Haitians killed, hundreds hurt in land feud

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Two days of machete battles in a remote town that killed at least 50 people and may have left more than 200 dead appeared Sunday to have ended as doctors arrived to treat scores of wounded, witnesses said.

Doctors returning from Jean-Rabel, about 220 kilometres north west of Port-Au-Prince, told Reuters they had counted as many as 50 dead and believed other bodies would be found.

The Haitian Information Ministry said Saturday at least 30 people were killed and hundreds hurt in violence triggered by a long-simmering land dispute.

Other unconfirmed reports put the death toll much higher. A missionary said more than 200 people had been killed, but there was no independent confirmation.

Accounts of the clash differed widely.

Some sources said it pitted peasants against landowners, while others suggested religious rivalries might have fanned the land dispute.

A Protestant minister who returned to the capital Saturday from Jean-Rabel told Protestant Radio Lumiere at least 235 people died in the fighting.

The minister, who asked not to be identified, later told Reuters "hundreds" were injured. He said hundreds of bodies were lying in the town's streets.

"The situation in Jean-Rabel is horrible," he said, adding that when he left the town on Friday night the killing was still going on.

Three radio stations initially reported the violence began when members of the disbanded Tontons Macoutes private militia ambushed a group of people demonstrating against them.

An Information Ministry spokesman said Friday's clash appeared to be between peasants backed by Protestant missionaries and landowners supported by former members of the Tontons Macoutes.

The spokesman quoted witnesses as saying Jean-Rabel, a town of several thousand people, was "in a state of mini-civil war." Incidents had occurred in the area previously, he said, one in-

volving two deaths.

Radio Lumiere and another station, Radio Haiti-Inter, said the bodies of 30 residents had been identified.

Roman Catholic Radio Soleil said the dispute had been brewing since former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier was deposed in February 1986 and fled the country after decades of rule by him and his father, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier.

A Western diplomatic source said on Friday night that violence had been increasing around Jean-Rabel, where peasants were trying to reclaim land they said had been fraudulently obtained through forced sales by Tontons Macoutes.

The fighting in Jean-Rabel was the most violent incident in a series of anti-government protests to hit Haiti in the past month.

Government troops in the capital fired in the air on Friday to disperse 10,000 unemployed people staging a march against provisional military President Henri Namphy's government.

Demonstrators have demanded the National Council of Government headed by Gen. Namphy honour promises for elections.

Philippine congress convenes today

MANILA (R) — With troops on full alert, the Philippines' first democratic Congress in 15 years convenes Monday to start urgent reforms in a country which has seen almost two decades of Communist rebellion.

The military alert followed rumours of a coup attempt and threats by right-wing and leftist dissidents to march to the heavily guarded congressional building as President Corason Aquino delivers her state-of-the-nation address before more than 200 new lawmakers.

"We cannot afford to lose this second chance that history has given us," said Lower House Speaker Ramon Mitra, stressing the need to make democracy work after 20 years of rule by ousted President Ferdinand Marcos.

The two-chamber congress, elected in a national vote in which Mrs. Aquino's ruling coalition won big majorities, will revive the U.S.-style legislature Mr. Marcos silenced when he declared martial law in 1972.

Mrs. Aquino ruled by decree after a revolt toppled Marcos in February 1986. On Monday Congress takes over lawmaking, ending a generation of authoritarian politics in which one person made the rules for 58 million people.

In a frenzy of legislation before yielding to Congress, Mrs. Aquino issued an average of 15 new laws daily in the past week — including an order that radio stations play more Filipino songs to offset a heavy diet of Western music.

The highest temperature recorded in Manila in recent years was 48 degrees Centigrade (118 Fahrenheit) in 1977.

The army has placed a wide area of Luzon Island, including Manila, under "red alert," which requires all troops to be in their barracks for emergencies.

Troops were also put on heavy alert on southern Mindanao Island where Muslim rebels have threatened to resume a largely dormant separatist war.

The Luzon alert followed the unmasking by the military of what it said was a plot by some soldiers to seize army camps and the airport, stop congress from convening, oust Mrs. Aquino, and bring Marcos back to power from his exile in Hawaii.

Left-wing peasants who have denounced an Aquino land reform decree as a ploy to please landlords say they will march.

Leaders of congress insist the body will be independent of Mrs. Aquino, while supporting her reformist policies.

They have promised swift action on laws to implement the land programme and a crackdown on graft by officials.

The new legislature is also expected to adopt measures to rein in a military made powerful by Marcos while toughening anti-subversion laws to combat the 17-year-old Communist rebellion.

Of the full membership of 24 senators and 200 congressmen, 10 seats will be empty Monday because of unresolved election disputes.

Among those who will stay on the sidelines is opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile, who holds the 24th Senate slot but has not been proclaimed.

No reason was given for the

U.S. commerce secretary dies after rodeo accident

WALNUT CREEK, California (R) — U.S. Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige, whose horse fell on him at a rodeo event on a private ranch, died of an apparent heart attack at a Walnut Creek Hospital, officials said.

Mr. Baldrige, 64, was flown by helicopter from the ranch of his longtime friend, Jack Roddy, to nearby John Muir Memorial Hospital where he underwent emergency surgery.

Hospital spokeswoman Kelly Cardella said the cabinet secretary died at 2250 GMT Saturday, about an hour and a half after going into the operating room.

"I believe the cause of death was cardiac arrest due to loss of blood and massive injuries," she told Reuters.

"Mr. Baldrige appeared to have a heart attack. We don't know if it was before, during or after the fall," said Contra Costa County Sheriff's Sgt. Larry Aohick.

"He pulled up his horse, the horse reared and toppled completely backwards on top of Mr. Baldrige, causing some injuries."

To Washington, President Reagan mourned the loss of his commerce secretary, an original member of his cabinet since 1981.

"The nation has suffered a great loss with the untimely death of Malcolm Baldrige," Mr. Reagan said in a statement issued by the White House.

Under his stewardship, the Department of Commerce played a key role in the rebirth of our country's prosperity and all of us owe a great debt to Mac Baldrige," Mr. Reagan said.

Mr. Baldrige was a major world player on trade matters, weighing in on such issues as the value of the dollar against other currencies and the recent scandal over the sale of military technology to the Soviets by Japan's Toshiba Machine Company.

The commerce secretary, a



Malcolm Baldrige

long-time rancher who often entered rodeos, was in northern California to enter rodeo events at the Contra Costa County Fair in nearby Antioch.

He had ridden in a calf-roping event at the fair on Friday night, according to Ray Whitt, a spokesman for the rodeo, and had received "an outstanding reception" from the audience.

Whitt, a spokesman for the county fair who was at the ranch at the time of the incident, said Mr. Baldrige was riding in a two-man calf-roping event and had just roped the animal's rear legs.

"At that point I looked away and heard a scream. I looked back and secretary was on the ground. The horse apparently came back on top of him," Whitt said.

He said an ambulance and helicopter were summoned and a volunteer fireman began "working on" the unconscious Baldrige.

By the time the helicopter got there he had been revived, said Whitt.

He added: "It was just a freak accident."

Mr. Baldrige was a low-key, well-liked figure on Capitol Hill. Most of his efforts have been aimed at opening markets to U.S. industry abroad and fighting off protectionist legislation at home.

Mr. Baldrige, a native of Omaha, Nebraska, and a graduate of Yale, has won several awards for steering top on the rodeo circuit.

An active Republican — he chaired the Connecticut state committee for George Bush's 1980 presidential bid — Mr. Baldrige rose to prominence as chairman and chief executive officer of Connecticut-based Scovill Inc.

Mr. Baldrige is married and has two children.

Two blacks killed in new S. African unrest

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A man was burned to death and another stoned to death by fellow blacks Saturday in the latest political violence in South Africa, police said Sunday.

One man died when a group of blacks poured petrol over him and set him alight at Langa township, in the eastern Cape province.

The second attack was at Vaal Reef Gold Mine, south west of Johannesburg, owned by the Anglo American Corporation, where blacks attacked a motorist whose vehicle had broken down.

"His car was set alight and after stoning him to death his body was thrown on to the burning car," the police said in their latest statement on political unrest, which has claimed more than 2,500 lives since 1984.

No reason was given for the

killings. The main targets of township attacks have been suspected police informers, political rivals and blacks regarded as collaborators with the white authorities, such as policemen or town councillors.

In other incidents, the police said a post office was set ablaze at Soweto, near Johannesburg, and a car badly damaged by stone-throwers near Port Elizabeth.

The government says the level of political unrest has dropped sharply since it imposed a state of emergency in June 1986, detaining thousands of opponents and outlawing first-hand media coverage of township violence.

But Deputy Information Minister Stoffel Van Der Merwe said last week that emergency rule could not be lifted now because it would probably lead to a new explosion of violence.

Opposition pledges protests to topple Ershad

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh opposition leaders, who led a general strike last week, Sunday announced more protests aimed at toppling President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, who discussed the tense situation with military chiefs.

An alliance led by parliamentary opposition leader Sheikh Hasina announced a protest march to the president's secretariat next Thursday.

The Bangladesh News Agency BSS tersely reported that Geo. Ershad Saturday night discussed with military commanders "the overall situation in the country," it gave no details.

NSC linked to U.S. military role in Nicaragua

MIAMI (AP) — Unknown to Congress, active-duty American soldiers under National Security Council control fired rockets and machine guns at Nicaraguan troops twice in 1984 to protect saboteurs, according to a published report.

Helicopter pilots from an army commando unit called Intelligence Support Activity (ISA) flew anti-Sandinista forces inside Nicaragua in 1983 and 1984, the Miami Herald reported in its Sunday editions.

The Herald report, which it said was based on interviews with organisers and participants, indicated that the National Security Council, bypassing normal government channels, controlled the network of secret military units and private contractors, using Lt.-Col. Oliver North as its chief operative.

On two occasions in 1984, ISA provided covering fire with rockets and machine guns to protect the saboteurs' retreat against entrenched Nicaraguan defenders, participants and planners told the newspaper.

hired civilian pilots carried out the missions. But participants say Task Force 160, a new helicopter assault force, actually provided helicopter support, the Herald said.

At the time, the administration of President Ronald Reagan strenuously denied any U.S. military presence in Nicaragua.

But Col. North wrote his boss, then-National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, in a March 2, 1984, memo that "in accord with prior arrangement," the U.S.-supported contra "took credit for the operation," the newspaper reported.

Describing the procedure allegedly used in about a half-dozen assaults, the Herald said a navy commando team would be ferried from a U.S. mother ship by Task Force 160 helicopters carrying boats to underbelly slings.

Light-attack helicopters based on the mother ship were armed with rockets and machine guns to protect the saboteurs.

700 reported dead in Greek heatwave

ATHENS (R) — More than 700 people have died and Greece has been placed in a state of national emergency as a result of a heatwave that has been scorching the country for the past seven days, hospital sources said Sunday.

Blistering temperatures of 44 degrees Centigrade (111 Fahrenheit) have sent hordes of people to hospitals, which are

operating round the clock to deal with the rush.

There were water shortages in Athens, which appeared deserted at the weekend as an estimated one million people fled to the countryside.

The weather service says temperatures will gradually decrease from Monday but will remain high for at least a further week.

Greek newspapers described the situation as a national tragedy and reported that graveyards were ordered to operate during the weekend.

The highest temperature recorded in Athens in recent years was 48 degrees Centigrade (118 Fahrenheit) in 1977.

Indian Muslim leader killed in blast

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — An explosion in west Indian Gujarat state killed a local Muslim leader, his 11-year-old son and three visitors to the leader's house, United News of India reported Sunday.

Police believe the blast Saturday in the home of Manzoor Hussain Pirzada, a member of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's governing Congress Party, was

caused by an explosive device.

Mr. Pirzada, a former member of the Gujarat State Assembly, had recently moved to his newly built house in the Gupara area of Wankar town from his father's ancestral home. His father is the leader of the Momens, a Muslim sub-sect that resides in the area.

Wankar is 50 kilometres north of Rajkot city and about

900 kilometres south west of New Delhi.

A local journalist reached by the Associated Press said the blast occurred in the drawing room of Mr. Pirzada's home and shattered windows and damaged the walls and roof.

Police were investigating the cause of the blast. Initial findings suggested the explosion was not politically motivated.

Jayewardene: Rebellion to end in Sri Lanka soon

COLOMBO (R) — President Junius Jayewardene has said a Tamil rebellion in Sri Lanka would end within a week of the signing of a peace accord on Wednesday with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Mr. Jayewardene told a meeting of the ruling United National Party that "terrorism will end on the Monday after I sign the accord with Gandhi in Colombo."

The plan approved by the party envisages the creation of a single autonomous council in northern and eastern areas to satisfy minority Tamil demands for a separate state in those areas.

Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa returned Sunday from official trips to Britain and Japan and was likely to meet Mr. Jayewardene to discuss the peace package.

Political observers said Mr. Premadasa, who is opposed to a merger of the north and east, would voice his criticism of the plan to Mr. Jayewardene.

"It is even rumoured that he may resign," one of the observers said, noting that it could spark a leadership crisis within the ruling

party. The plan was largely agreed upon by Sri Lankan and Indian officials while Mr. Premadasa was abroad, they said.

Senior Minister Gamani Jayasuriya was reported by the Sunday Island newspaper as likely to resign in protest over the accord.

Mr. Jayasuriya was not available for comment.

Opposition parties are also opposing the package and former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike told a rally on Friday that her Freedom Party planned to conduct a non-violent campaign against the agreement.

She also asked Mr. Premadasa to join those opposing the accord.

People's United Front leader Dinesh Gunawardene was reported by the Sunday Island as saying the government had abdicated its authority and responsibility to the whole of Sri Lanka.

Government sources said that according to preliminary arrangements Mr. Gandhi would arrive at Colombo airport on Wednesday and then be flown by helicopter to parliament, about eight kilometres east of Colombo.

Protesting Tatars agree to meet Gromyko

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A group of Crimean Tatars who tested official tolerance with an overnight protest in Red Square won a promise Sunday to meet with Soviet President Andrei Gromyko, but failed to gain the audience they sought with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

The group left voluntarily at about 3 p.m., more than 21 hours after they began their protest.

Tatar sources reached by telephone after the protest said they had no information on anyone having been arrested as the protest broke up.

"They left and agreed to a meeting with Gromyko at 12 o'clock tomorrow," said one source.

The source, quoted by AP, and several protesters who left the demonstration, said the group had rejected Saturday an offer to meet with Mr. Gromyko, and was holding out for a meeting with Mr. Gorbachev.

Mr. Gromyko leads a government commission that was announced Thursday to look into the problems of the Crimean Tatars. They were accused of collaborating with the Nazis during World War II and deported en masse to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and the Ural in 1944.

Reshat Dzheilyov, a Tatar activist for three decades, said the demonstrators dispersed after accepting the Kremlin offer of a meeting with Mr. Gromyko relayed by Interior Minister Alexander Vlasov.

Mr. Dzheilyov, who has served several jail terms for agitating in the Tatar cause, said some protesters heard Mr. Vlasov talking to Mr. Gorbachev over his car telephone during discussions in the Red Square area Saturday night.

Declaring should draw the ace of diamonds, cash the ace-king of clubs and ruff a club. A heart ruff serves as the entry for another club ruff, and now the jack of hearts is led. When East follows low, declarer doesn't ruff. Instead, he discards a spade loser and he can claim his contract.

West wins a heart trick, but he has a fibson's choice of return. A spade is into declarer's major tenace; anything else allows declarer to ruff in dummy while discarding the queen of spades from hand. Either way, the small slam is assured.

IRAQI-JORDANIAN LAND TRANSPORT CARGO FORWARDING UNITS TENDER OF JULY 13, 14, 15, 1987

The Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company announces the extension of offers submission to 12:00 hours on Tuesday September 15, 1987.

Director General
Eng. Jamil Ibrahim

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Man, affected by heat, bites dog

ANKARA (R) — A Heatwave now gripping Turkey disturbed gunsmith Kemal Pala so much he bit his neighbour's howling dog Lassie three times. The semi-official Anatolian Agency said Lassie's owner Mehmet Ahcioglu reported the matter to police at the western town of Biga who were questioning the two men. There was no word on Lassie's condition.

U.S. serious crime up in 1986

WASHINGTON (R) — Serious crime in the United States rose to its highest level for five years in 1986, and one in every 20 Americans was a victim, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has reported. In its annual crime report, the agency said serious crimes totalled 13.2 million in 1986, up six per cent from 1985 and the highest level since 1981. But only 66 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty last year, down from 77 in 1985 and the lowest toll since 1968, when 64 died. Violent crime was up 12 per cent, with aggravated assault climbing 15 per cent and robbery and murder nine per cent each. More than six in every 1,000 Americans were victims of a violent crime in 1986. Out of 12.5 million arrests, 1.8 million — the biggest category — were for drunken driving. One in every 149 registered cars was stolen last year, up 11 per cent from 1985.

U.S. envoy marries Malaysian princess

PORT LOUIS, Mauritius (AP) — U.S. Ambassador Ronald Dewayne Palmer, a descendant of U.S. slaves and son of a Pennsylvania coal miner, married a Malaysian princess, Intan Badariah, in a traditional ceremony Saturday. About 160 guests, including Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and opposition leader Paul Berenger, attended the ceremony at Palmer's residence. Palmer, 55, has been ambassador to Mauritius since last November. He met his bride in 1982, when he was ambassador to Malaysia. At that time, the princess' brother, Sultan Ahmad Shah of Pahang, was king of Malaysia. Princess Intan, is one of 28 children of the late Sultan Sir Abu Bakar of Pahang, who had four wives.

Divers begin survey of Titanic wreck

PARIS (AP) — The crew searching for treasure from the Titanic made its first dive, in a small submarine that plunged 4 kilometres to the ocean floor accompanied by a robot named Robin. After a day of high winds that frustrated attempts to dive Friday, the weather improved enough Saturday to allow divers to begin a general survey preceding the retrieval of artifacts, said Yves Cornet, spokesman for Taurus International. The mini-sub Nautilus, with a crew of three, was to explore the wreck site 560 kilometres off Newfoundland. Cornet said salvagers were searching for the bow of the Titanic, which has never been found. It is believed to be as far as 1-3 kilometres from the main portion of the wreck, he said. The mini-sub will be floating over a 4-kilometre debris field around the Titanic shown in previous surveys to be littered with silver trays, china cups and other artifacts. The Nautilus is equipped with two arms capable of picking up objects smaller than Titanic teacups and larger than safes. The 80-kilogramme robot, Robin, is attached by an 8-metre umbilical cord to the Nautilus. Robin is fitted with lights and three cameras encased in Titanium and steel cases for shooting colour video and photographs inside the Titanic. Another camera will be carried by a member of the mini-sub crew.

One-fifth of Senegal policemen sacked

DAKAR (R) — Senegal has sacked one in five of its policemen, including a quarter of the senior officers, following unprecedented strikes and demonstrations. The government suspended the entire police force after disturbances in April, but the Interior Ministry said that 4,822 of the 6,265 policemen involved would be reinstated. The government sacked Interior Minister Ibrahim Wone and called in paramilitary gendarmes to maintain law and order when the police defied ban on striking and took to the streets after seven members of the force were sentenced to two years imprisonment for beating a robbery suspect to death.

Chinese city wipes out rats, dogs

PEKING (AP) — The Eastern port city of Tianjin has wiped out 4 million rats and nearly 120,000 dogs in a campaign to eradicate animal-transmitted diseases, according to a local news report. The rats were killed between March and May, leading to a 50 per cent decline in disease spread by the rodents from the same period a year earlier, with virtually no cases of typhoid reported. Wednesday's edition of the Tianjin Evening News (Tianjin Wambao) said. The newspaper was available in Peking on Saturday. The newspaper noted that the number of dogs raised in Tianjin, with an urban population of more than 5 million, grew to 200,000 and that 30 people have been infected with rabies from dog bites since the beginning of 1986. All but one has died. Tianjin has eradicated 118,287 dogs in a campaign that began last year, the report said.

76th Wagner Music Festival opens

BAYREUTH, West Germany (AP) — The 76th Wagner Music Festival opened here with a new arrangement of the famous Lohengrin opera, but minus American singer Nadine Secunde. Ms. Secunde was scheduled to sing the part of Elsa in the new arrangement by film director Werner Herzog, but was forced to cancel out unexpectedly because of illness, the organisers said. Her role was taken over by Swedish singer Catarina Ligendza, who joined Canadian Paul Frey, giving his first performance at the festival in the title role as Lohengrin. The festival features the works of German composer Richard Wagner, whose operas are described as representing the fullest musical and theatrical expression of German romanticism. Wagner, whose works are based largely on German mythology, include the operas Rienzi, the Flying Dutchman, Tannhauser, and Lohengrin, written in a ten year period from 1838 to 1848. He also wrote Librettos, based on Der Ring Des Nibelungen, a tetralogy that includes Das Rheingold, Die Walkure, Siegfried and Gotterdammerung, between 1853 and 1874. Wagner moved to Bayreuth in 1872 and built a theatre to enable him to stage his operas. He died in 1883, but his works have been performed there regularly ever since. The festival's lavish classical opera performances, which this year run through Aug. 28, are a main attraction and gathering place for opera lovers and celebrities from around the world.

Joan Collins wins alimony battle

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actress Joan Collins made a vow amid a champagne celebration — "I will never marry again, never, never." The 54-year-old British actress, star of the Dynasty television series, was celebrating a superior court ruling that a pre-nuptial agreement she signed with estranged husband number four, Peter Holm, was valid, meaning she would not have to pay him an additional \$1.2 million. "I'm delighted and I'm very happy," a smiling and crying Collins shouted to friends and aides. "I feel like leaping about after this hectic, four-day trial," she said earlier in a frenzied courtroom scene when the judge announced his decision. Asked if she still had any feelings for Holm, a 40-year-old Swedish businessman who is still seeking temporary alimony of \$80,000 a month from Collins, the British actress said quietly: "I wish him well, the stubborn man." "I felt really bad that my life was opened to the public during the trial," she said. "It was something I had dreaded." But Collins, looking the image of Dynasty's Alexis Carrington in a tight, knee-length black split skirt under a wide-shouldered black and white jacket, said she felt she had won a decisive victory. Judge Earl Riley upheld a pre-nuptial agreement, prepared by Holm and signed by him and Collins, stating he would receive 20 per cent of Collins's earnings during their marriage.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHAHIN
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GOOD BOOK FOR INTERMEDIATE PLAYERS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 632
♥ A J 3
♦ K J 10 8 5
♣ 7 4

WEST
♠ K 10 8
♥ J 8 7 5
♦ K Q 10 9 7 6
♣ 7

EAST
♠ J 8 7 5
♥ K 8 5 4
♦ A 3 2
♣ J 9 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 4
♥ 2
♦ A Q 9 8 4
♣ A K 8 5

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♣ 3 ♣ Pass
4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

The American Bridge Teachers' Association voted Harry Albert's "The Fun Way to Advanced Bridge" (Pireless Books, paperback, 158 pp., \$6.95) the best bridge book of 1986. We have seen the hands before, but most of the advice is sound and the cartoons that abound in the book emphasize the points they make in a way that many will find easy to remember.